

Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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November 12, 2023

10:45 AM

God's Economy: Fairness or Grace?

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping 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 wiggles & 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 from "A Patriotic Suite"

Music by Charles Callahan

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***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

L: In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

P: we are given enough joy to live each day.

L: In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

P: we are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

L: In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

P: we are given enough grace to share each day.

***OPENING HYMN (see page 7)** *“This is God’s Wondrous World”*

#136

Words: Malthie D. Babcock, 1858-1901, alt.
Music: English melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930
Sacredness of Creation
Community of Christ Sings hymnal
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***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: Generous God, whose giving knows neither measure nor end, we confess that all too often we have kept our own hearts, hands, and minds firmly closed. Forgive us for those times when our own wants and wishes have filled the horizon and made us blind and deaf to the needs and concerns of others. Forgive us for those moments when fear has kept us silent and still when those around us are in need. Forgive us for those situations when seeing only a problem, rather than daring to dream a solution, has left us fettered and powerless where we might have been building your Kingdom. Forgive us, O God. Help us to transcend self-centeredness, greed, and fear; and to always feel, think, and act as those who know the hope that is rooted in your generous giving. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PRAISE RESPONSE (see page 6)**

“Grace Alone”

FWS# 2162

Jeff Nelson, Scott Wesley Brown,
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ALL SING: Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith, every difference we will make is only by God’s grace. Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine, every blessing left behind is only by God’s grace. Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown God will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

***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 20:1-16

One: God is still speaking!

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“A Prayer for Our Time”

Words by Pamela Martin

Music by Joseph Martin

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JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“American Pastorale”

Music by John Dixon
Copyright © 2021, John Dixon.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (see page 8)

For One Great Peace

FWS #2185

Words by: Shirley Erena Murray
Music by Jim Strathdee
Words Copyright © 1992, Hope Publishing Co.
Music Copyright © 1998, Desert Flower Music
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**ALL SING: This check I write, this march I join, this faith I state, this truth I sign,
this one small part, in one small place of one heart’s beat for one great Peace.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

NCH #594, vs.1&2

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Medical Mission Sisters.
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**How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God’s gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we’re grateful for life’s bounty all around.**

**Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters, and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

L: This Veterans' Day, we take time to honor and pray for all those we have sent and continue to send to war in the name of our nation. Keep us mindful, O God, that their service is not an adventure, a movie or video game, or something to be glorified, but truly a sacrifice.

P: We give thanks for their courage, for their love of country, and for their willingness to serve.

L: We acknowledge the risks they undertake on our behalf, not just from the actions of enemies, but the unseen injury that inevitably results from the act of war itself.

P: Help us to support them and stand ready to dress their wounds—in body, mind, and spirit—and address their needs.

L: Remind us that it's not just veterans themselves that bear the cost of their service, but also their families, spouses, children, communities, and all those who await their safe return—some, alas, in vain.

P: Sustain them, care for them, comfort them, O God.

L: We confess that every war is a human failure to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace. We give thanks for the service and sacrifice of veterans, and we pray we need never ask it again.

P: We pledge ourselves to peace in their name and your name, our Prince of Peace, and work for a time when war will be no more. In all your holy names, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

NCH #594, vs.3&4

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Medical Mission Sisters.

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**How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.**

**America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.**

**How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.**

**Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"An American Trumpet Tune"

Music by Gilbert M. Martin

8 New Trumpet Tunes for Organ

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Grace Alone

Jeff Nelson | Scott Wesley Brown

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♩ = 80



1. Ev - ery prom - ise we can make, ev - ery prayer and step of faith,
2. Ev - ery soul we long to reach, ev - ery heart we hope to teach,

5



ev - ery dif - ference we will make is on - ly by God's grace. Ev - ery moun - tain
ev - ery - where we share God's peace is on - ly by God's grace. Ev - ery lov - ing

10



we will climb, ev - ery ray of hope we shine, ev - ery bless - ing left be - hind
word we say, ev - ery tear we wipe a - way, ev - ery sor - row turned to praise

15



is on - ly by God's grace. Grace a - lone which God sup - plies, strength un -
is on - ly by his grace.

19



- known God will pro - vide. Christ in us, our Cor - ner - stone; we will go forth in grace a -

24



- lone.

136 This Is God's Wondrous World

D F#m/A A D G/D D A A7

1 This is God's won-drous world, and to my lis-tening ears all
 2 This is God's won-drous world; the birds their car-ols raise, the
 3 This is God's won-drous world; oh, let me ne'er for-get that

D F#m/A A Bm A D A D A

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres. This
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their Mak-er's praise. This
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet. This

D G A7 D G D A7

is God's won-drous world; I rest me in the thought of
 is God's won-drous world; God shines in all that's fair. In
 is God's won-drous world; why should my heart be sad? Let

D F#m/A A F#m/A F#7/A# Bm A D A D

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-tling grass or moun-tain pass, God's voice speaks ev-ery-where.
 voic-es sing, let the heav-ens ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901, alt.
 Music: English melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930

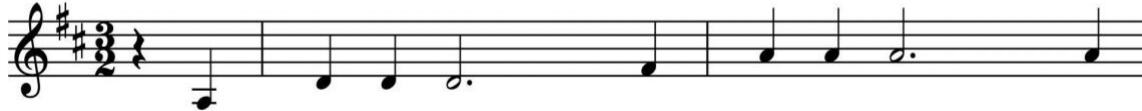
U.S.A./England
 6.6.8.6.D. (S.M.D.)
 TERRA BEATA

For One Great Peace

Shirley Erena Murray

Jim Strathdee

♩ = 150



1. This thread I weave, this step I dance, this
2. This pot I shape, this fire I light, this
3. This check I write, this march I join, this

4



stone I carve, this ball I bounce, this nail I drive, this
fence I leap, this bone I knit, this seed I nurse, this
faith I state, this truth I sign, this is small part, in

7



pearl I str-i-ng. this flag I wave, this note I sing,
rift I m-e-nd, this child I raise, this earth I tend,
one small pl-a-ce, of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

Poinsettia Flower Order Form



The Christmas season is coming quickly, and it is time to order your poinsettias. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to participate, please return the form below along with your payment to the church office by Monday, November 20th. You can pay by cash or check. Make checks payable to TUCC with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

1 Plant (6 bloom) 6.5" pot

Number of plants:	RED	_____	@\$12.00 each
	WHITE	_____	@\$12.00 each
	PINK	_____	@\$12.00 each
	MARBLE	_____	@\$12.00 each

TOTAL DUE \$_____

Please take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service or deliver them to a homebound member. If you will not be at the Christmas Eve service in person, please let us know, and we will make arrangements for you to pick them up.

References

¹ The Call to Worship was written by Thom Shuman and published on his website, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2017/09/liturg-y-with-communion-for-september-27-15.html> and accessed on November 5, 2023.

² The Prayer of Confession was originally posted on *Christian Aid's Weekly Prayers* website at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk>. It was accessed for this worship service at the *Re:Worship* website where it was shared with permission for use in worship services.

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: Michael Day*, Teresa Tibbits, Marianne Long,
MaryAnn Glaze
Children's Sermon: Caleb Murray
Lay Reader: Teresa Needham
Acolyte: Liam Neff

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.

