

***Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation***

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September 24, 2023

10:45 AM

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 10:45 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

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Setting by J. Wayne Kerr

Let Us Walk with Jesus

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***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

L: We gather this day, stranger and friend,

P: Known and unknown,

L: All loved by God.

P: We gather to worship,

L: To offer concern and joy,

P: To be reminded to love as we have been loved.

L: So let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

NCH #23

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**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.**

There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: O Holy God, we know we have fallen short. We turn our backs when we could embrace. We remain silent when we could speak. We speak when we could listen. We close the door when we could fling it wide open. We judge when we could seek understanding. We cling when we could give. We are stingy with forgiveness when we could model your extravagant love. Forgive us, O God, for being so very human at times, and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PRAISE RESPONSE

"The 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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**ALL SING: Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.**

The First Song of Isaiah

♩ = 80



Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the

5

Lord is my strong - hold and my sure de _ fense and he wi-ll be my _ Sav - ior.

***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 18:21-35

One: God is still speaking!

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“Amazing Grace”

Words by John Newton

Arr. by Sonja Poorman

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***CLOSING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

NCH #547

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Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found, was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
grace my fears relieved; How precious did that
grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I

have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose
word my hope secures; God will my shield and
portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright
shining as the sun, We've no less days to
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Amazing Grace"

Music by Adolphus Hailstark

Listen to the Lamb

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References

¹ The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel and published on her website, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/> and accessed on August 29, 2023.

² The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel and published on her website, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/> and accessed on August 29, 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: Sarie Dickey*, Trey Rhodes, Teresa Needham,

Scott, Kathy and Ryan Shaffer

Children's Sermon: Caleb Murray

Lay Reader: Alice Poper

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.

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 *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

Music by Lissie S. Tourjee
The Sunday Morning Organist Vol. 6
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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *"As a Fire is Meant for Burning"*

FWS #2237
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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