



Where  
your  
treasure  
is,

there  
your  
heart will  
be also

MATTHEW 6:21

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolynne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music and SOT Choir Director

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Hummer, Interim Preschool Director

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## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**2:00 P.M.**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ’s presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to the Pastor.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

**We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.**

Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

**God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within you.

**We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.**

We come to this sacred table not because we must, but because we may. Come not because we are fulfilled, but because in our emptiness we stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.

Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for the Spirit.

Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as we are. Partake and share. It is spread for us that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and invited us to join the community of God's own people.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us to return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. Let us confess our sin in silent prayer.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

Let us confess together.

**Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives. **We confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people. **We confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. **We confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work. **We confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. **We confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. **Accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us. **Accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us. **Accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

# **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*(Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward to the communion rail. The pastor and assistant will apply ashes in the sign of the cross on the forehead of each person with these words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.")*

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, **that we may show forth your glory.**

By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord, **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

*Because of the coming day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

### **PSALTER**

Psalm 51: 1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.  
**Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.  
**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**EPISTLE LESSON**                      2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.    **Thanks be to God.**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

*Glory Be to You, O Lord*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise Be to You, O Christ*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## SERMON

**“Repent and Return!”**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PEOPLE’S OFFERING

### OFFERING DEDICATION

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. Because you have come to us in Jesus Christ, enduring the Cross so that we might know eternal life, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise. With angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, the church on earth and the church in heaven we praise you with your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(Congregation may be seated)*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP**

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

## AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing after everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of all creation, and a world in need.

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world, in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**

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### **CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent?** You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'"

([http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No Alleluia.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm)).

## **Ministering This Afternoon**

Pastor/Celebrant     Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin  
Lector/Assistant     Rev. Sandy Morris  
Greeters             Dottie Schadt, Ken & Marilyn Trauger

### **HOLY LAMENT: MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross---the place to which the season of Lent leads us---is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. as some of our clergy members or religious teachers in our midst preach. Below is the list of our themes and preachers:

February 21: What is Lament? –Rev. Dr. Carrie Call preaching  
February 28: "Little" Laments—Dr. Randall Zachman preaching  
March 6: Laments from the Depths—Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen preaching  
March 13: Individual Lament—Rev. Bob Bistline preaching  
March 20: Communal Lament—Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

*Information about Holy Week & Easter services will be in the March Parish Post!*

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **Lenten devotionals are available on the table across from the church office.**

**THE MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST:** The men will be meeting in February 17 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet across from the church office.

**FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
 Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
 Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
 a great and powerful army comes;  
 their like has never been from of old,  
 nor will be again after them  
 in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
 return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
 Return to the LORD, your God,  
 for he is gracious and merciful,  
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
 and relents from punishing.  
<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
 and leave a blessing behind him,  
 a grain offering and a drink offering  
 for the LORD, your God?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sanctify a fast;  
 call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
 Sanctify the congregation;  
 assemble the aged;  
 gather the children,  
 even infants at the breast.  
 Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
 and the bride her canopy.  
<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
 Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
 a byword among the nations.  
 Why should it be said among the peoples,  
 'Where is their God?'"

*or* **Isaiah 58:1-12** [not printed]

**Psalm 51:1-17**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—  
 6:10** [not printed]

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
 ELCA-R

PRAYER SHAWL The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, February 20th from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

EXPLORING THE SKY ABOVE TRINITY U.C.C. WITH SUE BOWMAN  
(Sue is a member of Trinity and a retired Astronomy teacher)

Calling all stargazers and those interested in enjoying a celestial evening out! Bring your telescopes and binoculars and join in the fun as the Trinity Preschool families and the members of Trinity explore The Sky Above Trinity U.C.C.. This observation session will train the telescope at Jupiter and its moons, Earth's moon as well as deep sky clusters and nebulae. The Trinity Youth will be assisting with the setup and use of the equipment and may be found to be quite conversant on matters astronomical! Great chance to use the star chart provided or look ahead with one of these apps: Star Chart, NASA app, Night Sky, Sky View Free, Star Walk2, Sky Safari. You may wish to bring along lawn chairs. Until then, keep looking up!

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office

March 14th

6-7 pm Pizza

7 pm Brief Intro to the observation session

7:15 pm Observation begins



LIFE LINE SCREENING, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Trinity United Church of Christ on Saturday, March 2, 2024. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/>



**Here is a list of supplies needed by our Preschool. Please consider purchasing an item and placing it in the basket in the Narthex.**

Small dry erase markers

Beginners pencils

Foil

Cotton balls

Coffee filters-large & small

Plain white muffin cups-small

Glue bottles with brushes

Scissor scoops

Plastic spoons and forks

Hot glue sticks

**Thank you!**

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS** are available on the table across from the church office. The deadline is February 25!