

Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



March 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY

Week 4 of Lent: Striving for Justice

(Oscar Romero)

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. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism. We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful understanding of sinner and saint.

We have a rich calendar of saints in the Christian faith. These are people from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our Christian journey. This Lenten midweek series honors the commemorations that occur during the weeks of the Lenten season. Commemorating these individuals is a starting point for a deeper engagement with our Christian faith.

This week's commemoration –Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980. Archbishop Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador. He was convinced that the heart of the gospel is centered on God's compassion for the poor and the liberation of all people. In our baptism we pledge to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We join with all the saints in hearing God's call and working for justice for all people.

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.

Why no alleluias or hymns of praise during Lent? You may have noticed that the hymn 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).

From Oscar Romero (*The Violence of Love*):

A church that does not provoke any crises,

A gospel that does not unsettle,

A word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society

in which it is being proclaimed – what gospel is that?

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. R. Lau

(Please use the prelude as a quiet time to begin worship)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OPENING HYMN

O God of Earth and Altar

#370

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND LENTEN VERSICLES

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

Despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

O Jesus, we adore Thee,
upon the cross, our King.

Let us pray.

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well with you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ, God came among us to save us from sin and death. In walking to the cross, Christ freed us from the bondage of guilt and judgment. We come before God now, seeking grace freely given to us.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we hear and obey the voice of the world rather than to turning to you for guidance,

grant us grace, O God, and free us.

When we critically judge others without wanting to look at ourselves,

grant us grace, O God, and free us.

When we fail to love any of your people out of prejudice and fear,

grant us grace, O God, and free us.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (TRISAGION)

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One, **Have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND CHORAL AMEN

In the Cross, we see God's amazing love for us. We are God's children living in a confused and divided world. In abundant grace, God answers our doubt, heals our pain, and forgives our sin. I announce, therefore, to you who do truly repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ that your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(sung)*

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:6-9

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-40

Glory be to You, O Lord. (Sung)

#498

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ. (Sung)

#498

SERMON

“Prayed for Non-Violent Witnesses”

Rev. Ken Trauger

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

U.C.C. STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

HYMN

When We Are Living



1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .



and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

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THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

THE EVENING PRAYER

For all living in poverty, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For any who are oppressed and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For refugees and immigrants, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For advocates and relief workers, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the work of the church in our community and around the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Now in a time of silence, let us offer prayers for our loved ones who are in need of your healing love.

THE SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Offertory on "Restoration"

Southern Harmony Tune/arr. R. Anderson

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own

#506

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.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

For the Healing of the Nations

HYMN

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spir your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be - banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

"For The Healing Of The Nations" Music WESTMINSTER ABBEY by Henry Purcell, c. 1680/Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842, public domain; Words by Fred Kaan © 1968 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 1108345

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in A Minor

G. Merkel

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. J. Kenneth Trauger

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Ushers/Greeters: Dan Otthofer, Betty Tyndall, Kathy McCarty

Tonight we welcome the Rev. J. Kenneth Trauger, a member of our congregation, as our guest preacher. Rev. Trauger is a graduate of Ursinus College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. The Seminary Alumni/ae Council will be honoring Rev. Trauger in May with the Robert V. Moss award. Ken currently serves on our Evangelism Committee. He has served the following ministries:

2004-2006: Interim Executive Director, Lancaster County Council of Churches

1977-2004: Chaplain, Conestoga View

1977-1982: Community Center Director, Salvation Army

1974-1976: Assistant Pastor, First Reformed U.C.C., Lancaster

1971-1974: Pastor, Zion-Immanuel U.C.C., Clarington, OH

1962-1971: United Church Board for World Ministries appointments of Rural Evangelism & Lay Training, Honduras

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to divide the donations in the Lenten denial envelope to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine and the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please be generous as we help our brothers and sisters in need.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES: “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

Join us for worship on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Here is the list of themes and preachers:

March 29 (Dying and Rising with Christ—Hans Nielsen Hauge/John Donne)---
Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer preaching

April 5 (The Beginning of Life—Dietrich Bonhoeffer)---Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen
preaching

LENTEN ADULT STUDY

**Finding the Gospel in the Old Testament with Dr. Rich Christensen
9:00 A.M. in Isenberg Hall**

March 26—The Power of Names

April 2—Life-Saving Faithfulness

Dr. Rich Christensen, a member of Trinity Church, is a retired professor of Church History. He previously served pastorates in Pennsylvania and Ohio, a missionary in Botswana, and professor at Phillips Theological Seminary in Oklahoma and Lakeland College in Wisconsin. He received degrees from Lancaster Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (PhD).



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

HOLY WEDNESDAY WITH ORDER OF HEALING: The Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen will be preaching at the 7 p.m. service

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 6 at 2 p.m./7 p.m.): Service of Word & Sacrament with Pastor Rankin preaching. The 2 p.m. service will be streamed on our Facebook page and later uploaded to our website.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE (April 7 at 7 p.m.)

EASTER MORNING SCHEDULE:

6:30 a.m.—Sunrise Service in the parking lot with Holy Communion

8:00 a.m.—Service in the sanctuary with Holy Communion

9:15-10:00 a.m.—Breakfast in Isenberg Hall (sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office)

10:30 a.m.—Service in the sanctuary with Holy Communion

The YMCA of the Roses Good Friday Breakfast



The YMCA of the roses announced that it is holding its Good Friday breakfast in Lancaster for its 68th year.

The Lancaster YMCA is planning to have the Good Friday breakfast on at the Farm & Home Center on April 7 at 7:30 a.m. (doors open at 7:00 a.m.). The Rev. Devin Jeffers, First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lancaster, will be the speaker. Pastor Rankin will offer the invocation. Trinity will once again have a table of 8 people for the breakfast. The cost will be \$20 per person. Contact the church office to make a reservation. Tickets are not available at the door.

MEN OF TRINITY BREAKFAST: The monthly breakfast will be held at the Family Fare Restaurant on **April 1 at 8:00 a.m.** Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.

CHURCH MULCHING: The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on Saturday, April 15 @ 8:30 am to mulch the church property. The rain date is April 29.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB SALE

We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from at least seven sub varieties:

**Sweet Bologna • Ham • Italian • Turkey
Roast Beef • Chicken Salad • Tuna Salad**

The above is a list of what you can order at Weavers

Each Sub Redemption Certificate: \$8.00

* Please note you have to go to Weaver's location to order & pickup Subs.

BREAD OPTIONS:
white sub roll • bread • tortilla wrap

CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS:
mayonnaise • mustard • creamy horseradish • olive oil • vinegar

CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE:
American • Provolone • Swiss

YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES:
lettuce • tomatoes • onions • marinated onions • sweet peppers
banana peppers • hot peppers • black olives • pickles
salt • pepper • herb mix • Parmesan

Locations: 5253 Main Street, East Petersburg, PA/ 1509 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA /Lancaster Central Market

NAME	PHONE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	PAID (Please check)

Please make checks payable to: **TRINITY PRESCHOOL**

PRESCHOOL MYSTERY READERS: Trinity Preschool is looking for Spring Mystery Readers for the remainder of March and April. Please contact Sean McKelvey through the church office or email at preschool@trinityeastpete.org to schedule a time to read a book to a preschool class. It's a fun way for Trinity members to support and be part of our preschool.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PINOCHLE

1:30 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Dates:
Thursday, April 13/ Thursday, May 11

All you have to do is sign up in the hallway near church office and bring a snack or drink to share. We're happy to teach players new to Pinochle.