



March 20, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Communal Lament

Rev. Ken Trauger

What expressions of communal lament do you find most meaningful?
How have you felt the strength of your community in times of disaster or distress?

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

This week we turn to communal lament. Sometimes disaster strikes not just one person or household but an entire community, even an entire nation. At such times we can find strength in coming together to mourn, raising our collective voices in a loud cry to God. Just as we need the support of the community when we face individual calamity, we also need one another in the face of a shared disaster. We need one another for strength, for courage, and to help us make of what is often senseless: destruction due to natural disaster, or destruction due to human violence.

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).

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.

PRELUDE

Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands

F. W. Zachau

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

1. Lord, whose love through hum- ble ser - vice bore the weight of
2. Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry
3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re -
4. Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear

hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light in its height and depth and great - ness
name we go to the child, the youth, the a - ged,

of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed: we, your ser - vants, bring the
still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com -
dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and
love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and

wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
tire - less striv - ing your a - bun - dant life to share.
Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know, and live.

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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.

The prophet Joel calls us to return to the Lord with all our hearts.

Lord, use this holy season of Lent to reorient our lives toward you.

As we raise our voices in lament,

Comfort us and give us cause for hope.

Bless our worship, our work, and our play.

Guide us with your Spirit, that we may follow where you lead in confidence and trust.

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)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on 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

COLLECT

Let us pray together.

Holy and merciful God, in times of distress, turn our hearts and minds toward you. Let our communal lament be signs to those around us that we worship you, a God who hears and holds our cries. As we lament together in community, may we provide peace to all searching for ways to voice their own pain and grief. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 44:1-10,13,17-26

We have heard with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

You with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;

For not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm give them victory, but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance, for you delighted in them.

You are my King and my God; you command victories for Jacob. Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down our assailants.

For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.

But you have saved us from our foes and have put to confusion those who hate us.

In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.

Yet you have rejected us and shamed us and have not gone out with our armies.

You made us turn back from the foe, and our enemies have gotten spoil.

You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.

All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten you or been false to your covenant.

Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way,

Yet you have broken us in the haunt of jackals and covered us with deep darkness.

If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a strange god,

Would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

Because of you we are being killed all day long and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not cast us off forever!

Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

For we sink down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

SERMON

“The Work of Our Hands”

Rev. Ken Trauger

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!---Psalm 90:17

(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 the Pain of the World Surrounds Us



1 When pain of the world sur - rounds us with dark - ness and de -
 2 We see with . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
 3 The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv - ing wa - ters
 4 We praise you . . for our jour - ney and your a - bun - dant



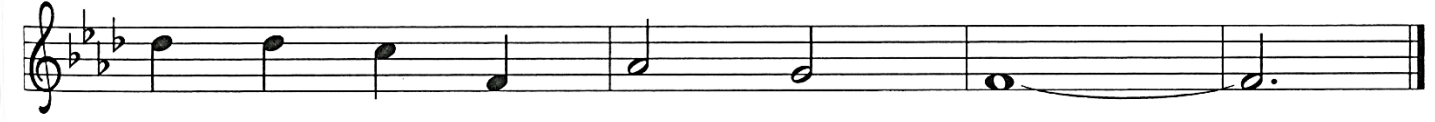
spair, when search - ing just con - founds us with
 need, con - fess - ing to each oth - er our
 fill to nour - ish all the peo - ple, God's
 grace, your sav - ing word that guid - ed a



false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and
 waste - ful - ness and greed. May we with stead - fast car - ing the
 pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be
 strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your



des - ti - ny is bare, we are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 hun - gry chil - dren feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 o - pen to God's will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 fu - ture we em - brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and



let God's heal - ing flow through us.
 let God's jus - tice flow through us.
 let God's Spir - it flow through us.
 let God's chang - es flow through us.

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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 God's healing love.

THE SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Loving God, receive these prayers and those that remain unspoken, and in return grant us your peace, all for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

My Heart if Ever Yearning

Johannes Brahms

(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

Christ for the World We Sing

#372

HYMN

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

Robert Adams



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

--*Share God's love with our community*

--*Serve God's children*

--*Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*

--*Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study*

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. J. Kenneth Trauger

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Ushers/Greeters: Mike Wagner, Betty Tyndall

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 honored Rev. Trauger last year with the Robert V. Moss Award for Faithfulness in Specialized Ministry. 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



March 27: Holy Wednesday Worship with Order of Healing at 7 p.m.—Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer preaching.

March 28: Maundy Thursday Services at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.—Pastor Rankin preaching

March 29: Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST: The Parish Life Committee is organizing the Easter breakfast on March 31 from 9:15-10:00 a.m. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. There will obviously be no Sunday School classes that day!

SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. We also need ushers/greeters for the Maundy Thursday services and our 8:00 a.m. Easter service. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: This year our Lenten Denial Offering is being donated to the international disaster relief charity call ShelterBox. ShelterBox was established in 2000, and partners with Rotary International, providing emergency shelter and other aid items to families around the world who have lost their homes to disaster and conflict. ShelterBox is funded by public donations. A ShelterBox provides more than just a tent but also includes a kitchen set, blankets, ground mats, hats, gloves, scarves, mosquito net, water filtration system, water carriers, solar light box, children’s school kit, hygiene supplies and wash basin. It also has a tool kit with a hammer, saw, wire cutters, and rope. The box weighs approximately 110 lbs. and is approximately 2’3” x 1.4” x 11” in size. The price of a ShelterBox is \$1000. As of April 2021, ShelterBox has provided support to two million people since its start in 2000.

NEW DIRECTORY: Look for a draft of a church directory across from the church office and make any necessary changes by the end of the month!

Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

When: Friday, March 29, 2024 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

Where: Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Details: The speaker will be Rev. Jennifer Mattson from Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Lancaster, PA, along with live music and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$20 per person (we have 3 tickets left). **Call the church office to reserve your ticket!!!**

MYSTERY READERS : Trinity Preschool is looking for Spring Mystery Readers for April. Please contact the Preschool through the church office or Email: 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.

CHURCH MULCHING: The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 6 @ 8:30 am** to mulch the church property. We will be doing this in conjunction with the Trinity Preschool families and the Scout troop. Look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church office!

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**

\$8 per Sub Coupon

Sign up sheet on table across from the office

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

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