



Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



Forgiveness

March 30, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Week 4 of Lent:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org

E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

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

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.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES –If you have trouble with hearing, please check with one of the ushers for a Hearing Assist Sound Receiver.

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).

PRELUDE

Nearer Still Nearer

C. H. Morris/arr. W. Barnett

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND LENTEN VERSICLES

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

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of our salvation.

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,
that the light of your face may shine on us.

May your justice shine like the sun;
and may the poor be lifted up.

Let us pray.

We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross, sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Help us by your grace to follow faithfully in your ways so that we may live to you and die to you. We are your people; we belong to you. Therefore, we offer you our worship and our lives. May your name be glorified in your church as we are open to your presence this night! In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. 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)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we hear and obey the voice of the world rather than 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 world. So in abundant grace, God answers our doubt, heals our pain, and forgives our failures in grace. I announce therefore in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free in grace. Thanks be to God! **Amen.** (sung)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

#226

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE GOSPEL LESSON ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

Glory Be to You, O Lord

St. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise Be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“Forgiveness X 5”

Rev. Bob Bistline

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

THE EVENING PRAYER

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this congregation, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests, that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who bring peace, justice, healing, and protection to this and every place.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, 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

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.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with the words of grace and life. Bless us and these gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

HYMN

O God, How We Have Wandered

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

“O God, How We have Wandered” Text by Kevin Nichols © 1980, 1981 ICEL © 1985 G.I.A. Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-711879.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MEDITATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in G Minor

G. Merkel

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Robert Bistline

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Tonight we welcome the Rev. Robert Bistline, a member of our congregation, as our guest preacher. Rev. Bistline is a graduate of Winebrenner Seminary and was ordained on November 22, 1964. He has served the following ministries:

2016-20 Designated Pastor, Zion U.C.C., New Providence

2014-15 Interim Pastor, St. Peter's U.C.C. (Lischey's), Spring Grove

2012-14 Interim Pastor, Zion U.C.C., New Providence

2010-12 Interim Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lititz

2006-09 Interim Pastor, Salem Evangelical Lutheran, Ephrata

2000-06 Pastor, Salem U.C.C., Harrisburg

1998 Interim Pastor, First Reformed U.C.C., Lancaster

1995-96 Interim Pastor, St. Paul's U.C.C., Stoverstown

1992-95 Interim Executive Director, Lancaster County Council of Churches

1979-92 Pastor, Church of God, Landisville

1970-79 Pastor, College First Church of God, Findlay, OH

1962-70 Pastor, Homeacres First Church of God, Toledo, OH

CHURCH MULCHING: The Property Committee is planning to put mulch around the church property on Saturday, April 2, 8:30 AM. Rain date to be announced. Sign-up sheet is in the hallway across from the church office

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST: The Lancaster YMCA is planning to have the Good Friday breakfast on at the Farm & Home Center on April 15 at 7:30 a.m. (doors open at 7:00 a.m.). The Rev. Gerald Simmons, Pastor of Faith Tabernacle Church of God in Christ and graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, will be the speaker. Trinity will once again have a table of 8 people for the breakfast. We already sold 6 of the 8 tickets. The cost is \$20 per person. Contact the church office to make a reservation.

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to use all donations given through the Lenten Denial envelope to assist those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine. Please be generous as we help our brothers and sisters in need.

LENTEN SERVICES---Theme for Wednesday services: Turning Toward God's Abundance

Week 5: Love (April 6 at 7 p.m.)—Rev. Sandy Morris (will include the order of healing)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 14 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 15 at 7 p.m.)

EASTER MORNING SCHEDULE:

6:15 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

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR: Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship on April 14 from 12:15-1:15 p.m. in Isenberg Hall! You are invited to stay for the Maundy Thursday Service at 2:00 PM.

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

MEAL AT ZION LUTHERAN, LANDISVILLE: There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway across from the church office for our next community meal on April 7 at Zion Lutheran in Landisville. We are in need of volunteers to help serve the meal. The volunteers should arrive by 5:00 p.m. Contact Nancy Enders or Paula Dennes for more information.

THE APRIL PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

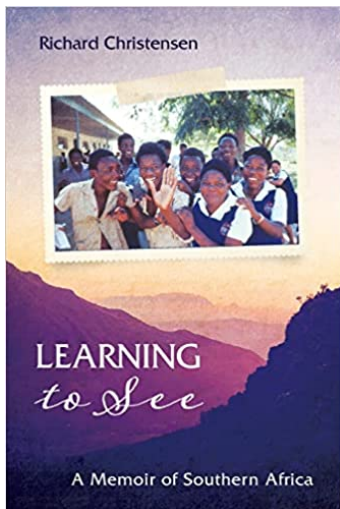
PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: You can still order S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons to support the Trinity Preschool. The cost is \$8 per coupon. Contact the church office for more information.

2022 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AIDS SPONSORS

Contact Carol in the church office to sign-up for chancel flowers and worship aids for 2022. We recently changed florists and so the new price for flowers will be \$60. The price for worship aids will remain at \$26. Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: **April 24**. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **April 10, 17 & 24**.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men will be meeting on Saturday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Family Fare Restaurant in East Petersburg. This is open to all men of the congregation! Call the church office to let them know you will be attending. Don't miss out on this time of fellowship.



Learning to See: A Memoir of Southern Africa by Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen

Teaching in the southern African nation of Botswana in the early 1980s, Richard Christensen faced a new world, one endlessly fascinating and challenging. Experiencing warm hospitality from many people, sharing both joyful celebrations and painful struggles with students, he and his family encountered a deeper sense of the true meaning of community. Travel in apartheid South Africa and war-weary Zimbabwe gave him a fuller understanding of the reality of oppression and how people of faith endured their plight and kept hope alive. In this experience, so surprising in many ways, he came to a deepened realization of the genuine freedom of the gospel and the hope it affords us. He saw that relationships are what save us, that the salvation of God in Christ is not merely personal and individual, but communal, and that we are thus more dependent upon one another than we realize. Learning to see the world with new eyes, he discovered not only a more expansive vision of the church and the world, but also a more honest and complete understanding of himself as a product of an affluent and segregated society. You can purchase book at either [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [wipfandstock.com](https://www.wipfandstock.com)



April 8

May 20

Masks may required per CDC guidelines

Snacks and Drinks to share are welcome!

Any Questions call: Karen Olley (717)598-0247

PRAYER CONCERNS: The family of Paul Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), Anne Rankin, Donna Zirkel, Bob Kilgore, Marvin Lehman and family, Lee Bossert, Sheldon Paulus (son-in-law of Chuck & Sue Husted), Sean McKelvey & family, Dr. Cathy Hoshauer, Joann Garvin, Herb Charles, Rev. Phyllis Baum, Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Herb Holbein (father-in-law of Danielle Huggins Holbein), Jean Otthofer (mother of Dan Otthofer), Rev. Paul Eyer (former pastor of St. Luke's), Danielle Huggins Holbein, Carole Connor, Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty), Mary Witmer, Mark & Mary Anne Ritter (friends of the Paulukows), Patrick & Mel (nephew of Marianne Gibble & his wife), the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong), David & Ann Potts (friends of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Pete & Nora Petrosky (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Lynn Dull, Hilma Slechta (mother of Mike Slechta), Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio), Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Donna Denlinger, Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Phyllis Zimmerman, Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley), Jaimie & Aurora Commero (friends of Sarah Paulukow), Mark Zody (friend of Denise Huggins), Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), Scott Summers, Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law), Bob & Marlyn Wible, Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), Elaine Sturgis (friend of Sue Husted), Doris Leaman, Judie Bistline, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).