

Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



March 15, 2023

7:00 p.m.

SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY

Week 3 of Lent: Faithful in Prayer

(Gregory the Great; Patrick)

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

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E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn 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 commemorations –Gregory the Great was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music. Patrick was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity. Patrick is famous for his defense of the Trinity. We remember that our Christian life is formed and sustained by worship and prayer. We need time to reflect and time to pray. God is far above and beyond our comprehension-we can never fully understand the divine-but we are called to worship God's immense, unfathomable presence in us and all creation.

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.

Prayer of Patrick:

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me;

God's might to uphold me,

God's wisdom to guide me,

God's ear to hear me,

God's word to speak for me,

God's hand to guard me,

God's way to lie before me,

God's shield to protect me afar and anear,

Alone or in a multitude.

PRELUDE

I Saw the Cross of Jesus

C. Hamlin

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

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)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 55:6-12

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the

sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“A Circle of Prayer”

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.

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 the earth and all who are striving to be good stewards of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For spiritual friends who walk with us on our faith journey, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For missionaries who spread the gospel in foreign lands, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For musicians, artists, liturgists, and all who lead worship, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For places and times for retreat and contemplation, 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.

RESPONSE

I Bind Unto Myself Today (Verse 4)

(Lyrics by Patrick)

4 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next two lines. The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Reflection on *Rockingham*

Robert Lau

(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

The Glory of These Forty Days

HYMN

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the - steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

"The Glory of These Forty Days" text Latin hymn 11th century; tr. Maurice F. Bell, alt. © 1906 Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One [License.net](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) #A-711879.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

M. Burkhardt

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Robert Bistline

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Ushers: Mike Wagner, Betty Tyndall, Kathy McCarty

Greeter: Cherie Cataldi

Tonight we welcome the Rev. Robert Bistline, a member of our congregation and a deacon on the Consistory, 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

Tonight we welcome back Sharon Levering as our guest organist. She enjoys reading and working as a supply organist at various churches in Lancaster County. She also volunteers at the Historic Ephrata Cloister and is a singer with the Wheatland Chorale and Musical Associates, as well as a singer with the Ladies Chorus at Landis Homes Retirement Community. Sharon resides in Ephrata with her husband, Lamar.

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

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 22 (Striving for Justice—Oscar Romero)---Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

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

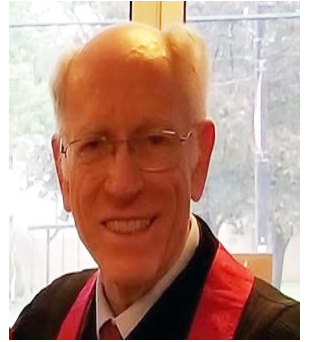
LENTEN ADULT STUDY

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

March 19—The Freedom of God

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 (MDiv) and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (PhD).

KNIT IN GOD'S LOVE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl will meet **Tuesday, March 21 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.

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 can be found on the table across from the church office.

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.

PINOCHLE

1:30 PM

**EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME!**

**EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME!**

Dates: Friday, March 17/ **-CANCELLED**
 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.

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.

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

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

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

NAME	PHONE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	PAID (Please check)

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

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.

Our Gifts to Others 2023 from the Board of Deacons

Each year Trinity UCC considers donations titled “*Our Gifts to Others.*” These annual gifts serve to support various outreaches that are important to our friends who are in need throughout the area.

We have a number of outreach options from which we may choose. Here is a brief summary of those seeking your consideration and support.

- **Milagro House** is committed to providing education, counseling and housing for women and children experiencing homelessness here in Lancaster County.
- **Bethany Children’s Home** started its *Helping Hands* program to provide unaccompanied children and youth the opportunity to be reunited with their families in the U.S. Youths stay an average of 10-12 days and receive basic medical care, food clothing shelter more development and basic education while their families are located.
- **Hoffman Homes Inc.** is a similar but longer term stay facility for troubled youth.
- **Love, Inc.** is a national agency that seeks to provide a conduit through which people in need can seek out much needed support efforts by local churches. This agency is geared for those among us in chronic need and seeks to transform lives in the community.
- **Lancaster Theological Seminary** – educates men & women for here for a variety of ministry settings. Donations to LTS help to support students in need with tuition, housing, etc.
- **Phoebe Devitt** – operates nursing home facilities here in central Pennsylvania. The ministries seek donations to help cover the cost of residents stay, regardless of their ability to pay.
- **UCC Homes**– provides benevolent care, and uncompensated care for needful seniors. This organization seeks our help to meet this need. There are homes in Ephrata, Annville, Carlisle, and Harrisburg.
- **Hunger Ministries**– You can designate to support the Hempfield Power Packs, the Lancaster Food Hub, or the Trinity Community Meal ministry.

In 2022, we received **\$21,085.00** for the Our Gifts to Others fund.

Please consider these worthy agencies as you think about your possible financial offerings for **March 19, 2023**. In addition you can donate online, designate as “Our Gift to Others”, and specify which one(s) you are donating towards.

2023 CONCERT SPONSORS: Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.



The Celtic Martins

In Concert

Trinity UCC

2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
717-569-1632
www.trinityeastpete.org

Sunday, April 16

Concert At 4:00 PM

Outdoors - Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Concert will move indoors in case of inclement weather.

Freewill Offering Benefits
Ting Ministries And
Trinity's Music Ministry





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.



SAVE THE DATE

Barnstormer's Game

JULY 5



Mark your calendars for **July 5** when the Lancaster Barnstormers will play the Long Island Ducks! **The cost is \$30 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity).** **Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free.** We will need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up! Call the church office to sign up.

Clothing Bank



THE LANCASTER FOOD HUB CLOTHING BANK has a need for sleeping bags, coats, underwear, and toiletry items.

Items can be dropped at our clothing bank container at church. The container is in the stairwell by the kitchen entrance.

Cherry Academy Workshops



people better connect with the local organizations working in this area, and with each other as they imagine new and exciting projects.

people are food insecure with 1 in 6.5 children struggling with hunger. (data from Feeding America and Central PA Food Bank, 2020 and 2021).

This themed year of events will not only expand knowledge of food insecurity issues in the city and county but will also help



WORKSHOPS



ADDRESS

2160 Lincoln Hwy East, #18



PHONE

(717) 299-1113



EMAIL

info@parishresourcecenter.org

Food Bank Panel

Apr 24, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Webinar

Central PA Food Bank,
CAP, York Food Bank

Food banks are the backbone of hunger relief efforts. They work behind the scenes to collect donated and bulk-purchased food and distribute it to other food pantries and food programs. Food banks are the storage and distribution depots that provide food to the smaller agencies who hand out food directly to the public. Food pantries, community meals, and many other food programs in our community rely on Central PA Food Bank, York County Food Bank, and CAP for access to donated food. Hear directly from these organizations about the work they are doing and how you can be involved.

Children and Hunger

May 1, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Brad Peterson, Power Packs
Webinar

In Lancaster County, 1 in every 6.5 kids struggles with hunger. Food insecurity has the potential to be harmful to individuals of any age, but it can be especially devastating to children as their bodies need fuel to grow and develop. Power Packs' unique approach to providing nutritious weekend meals and food preparation skills help families better stretch their food dollars. In partnership with 11 out of the 16 school districts in Lancaster County, Power Packs works directly in schools. Hear more about their work, the Georgetown University research project analyzing their methods, and how you can get involved.

