

Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



March 29, 2023

7:00 p.m.

SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY
Week 5 of Lent: Dying & Rising with Christ
(Hans Nielsen Hauge; John Donne)

Romans 6:3-11

Revelation 7:9-17

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

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 –Han Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth century Norwegian lay preacher, and John Donne, the seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. At first glance there is little that connects these two-but at their heart both individuals were fervent in proclaiming the amazing grace of God with as much clarity as possible. This is the core of our Christian faith, that Jesus died to save us from our sins and rose to grant us everlasting life. We have died with Christ in baptism, and because he lives, we shall rise with him.

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.

From John Donne (*A Hymn to God the Father*):

*Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive those sins, through which I run, and do run still, though still I do deplore?*

When thou hast done, the hast not done, for I have more.

*Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two, but wallowed in, a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.*

*I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And having done that, thou hast done; I fear no more.*

PRELUDE *Slow Movement (from "Concerto in D Minor")*

A. Vivaldi/arr. for organ by J. S. Bach

(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

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

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.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 FIRST LESSON

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection

like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

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

SERMON

"Catch the Vision & Share the Joy"

Pastor Royer

(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.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#158

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 those in hospice or nearing death, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those mourning the loss of a loved one, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the unity of all Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those preparing for baptism, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the ministry of all the baptized, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the church as it prepares to celebrate Holy Week, 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

Ah, Holy Jesus J. Crueger/arr. R. Brunner
(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

HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#21

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chorale Postlude "Eins ist Not, ach Herr"

J. S. Bach/arr. Lorenz

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Harry Royer

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Ushers/Greeters: Mike & Shelley Wagner, Kathy McCarty

We welcome Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer as our guest preacher tonight. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pastor Royer served the following congregations:

- 1965-68 Pastor, St. John's U.C.C., Freeland
- 1969-90 Pastor, St. John's U.C.C., Reading
- 1990-11 Pastor, Trinity U.C.C., East Petersburg
- 2011-15 Designated Supply Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lancaster
- 2018-19 Bridge Pastor, First Reformed U.C.C., Lancaster

On September 27, 2015, Trinity Church bestowed the title of Pastor Emeritus upon Rev. Royer.

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

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

LENTEN ADULT STUDY

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

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).



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:

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

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 (4 of the tickets have already been reserved). The cost will be \$20 per person. Contact the church office to make a reservation. Tickets are not available at the door.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY MEAL: Trinity will be cooking and serving a take-out community meal at **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at 85 Brandt Blvd in Landisville on Thursday, April 13th at 5:30 PM.**

Persons are needed to help with meal preparation and to hand-out the take-out meals. Sign-up sheets for helpers are posted in the Narthex. Persons helping to prepare the meal need to arrive at Zion Lutheran by 4:00 PM. Persons helping to hand-out the meals need to arrive at Zion Lutheran by 5:00 PM. Contact Nancy Enders or Paula Dennes with questions. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

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.

WELCOME LUNCHEON: The Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring a welcome luncheon for new members and recent visitors to Trinity Church following the 10:30 service on April 30th. Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office.

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

