



February 21, 2024

7:00 p.m.

What is Lament?

What comes to mind when you hear the word *lament*? How comfortable are you with the concept of lament, whether as an individual or as a community? Do you feel lament is an important spiritual discipline? Why or why not?

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

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Hummer, Interim Preschool Director

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE THEME: HOLY LAMENT

What is lament? The Bible is filled with examples of faithful people of God offering up sorrowful or even angry prayers to God. Even Jesus laments over Jerusalem and weeps at the death of a friend. To lament, to grieve, to weep—these are all part of the life of faith. Often we are too quick to push aside the uncomfortable feelings of grief and loss. We have lost, in some ways, the spiritual discipline of lament: acknowledging the grief that is part of everyday life, holding it, and then placing it gently (or forcefully!) in God's hands. This Lent we will explore the laments found in scripture and relearn the discipline and the gift of holy lament.

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.

Tonight we welcome the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a member of Trinity Church, as our guest preacher. Dr. Call is a graduate of Cornell University and Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. Ordained on November 22, 1994, Dr. Call served as pastor of Old First Church, Middletown, NJ from 1992-1997. Following graduate studies, Dr. Call served as an administrator at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN from 2004-2012. She also served as an adjunct instructor in the Education & Psychology departments at St. Mary's College. In 2012, she became the Associate Conference Minister for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. Dr. Call joined the staff of Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2016 as the Executive Director of Development & Communications. On August 1, 2019, Dr. Call began as the Transitional Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference. In 2020, Dr. Call was elected to be the sixth Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference and was installed to that position on September 12, 2021. Dr. Call is Trinity's Covenanted Minister of Mission, and is currently chairing our Administrative Manual Revision Task Force.

PRELUDE

Aria

Robert Adams

(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.

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.

OPENING HYMN

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad - er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;

4
There's a kind-ness in His jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

8
There is no place where earth's sor - rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more sim - ple We should take Him at His word;

12
There is no place where earth's fail - ings Have such kind - ly judge - ment given.
And our lives would be all sun - shine In the sweet - ness of our Lord.

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

Here is a flood of grace: Out of the love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *(sung)*

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

COLLECT

Let us pray together.

Loving God, the prophets, psalm-writers, and countless other people of faith have given us an example of how to hold our grief before you through songs of lament. Hear our cries this night. Give us courage to name our deepest sorrow and to hand it over to you. Heal our wounded hearts and give us peace. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Lamentations 3:19-26

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

(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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

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

Create in us a clean heart, O God.

And renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence.

And do not take your Holy Spirit from us.

For the peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray,

O God, hear our prayer.

For the welfare of all churches, and for those who lead us in faith,

O God, hear our prayer.

For our nation and our community, and for those who preside in public offices,

O God, hear our prayer.

For all who hunger, are sick, and in pain,

O God, hear our prayer.

For a peaceful evening and safety this night,

O God, 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.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Anthem No. 2
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Henri Gagnon

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

By Gracious Powers

See page 9

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

O God, Thou Faithful God

Johannes Brahms

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Building Trustee: Mike Wagner

Ushers/Greeters: Mike & Shelley Wagner

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 are available on the table across from the church office.

LENTEN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.

By Gracious Powers

1 By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us
 5 By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tect - ed,

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter suf - fering, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,
 so qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,

we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 Oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion,
 we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling
 we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through
 I'll live each day in hope, with you be - side me,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
 and go with you through ev - ery com - ing year.

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HOLY LAMENT: MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross---the place to which the season of Lent leads us---is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. as some of our clergy members or religious teachers in our midst preach. Below is the list of our themes and preachers:

February 28: "Little" Laments—Dr. Randall Zachman preaching

March 6: Laments from the Depths—Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen preaching

March 13: Individual Lament—Rev. Bob Bistline preaching

March 20: Communal Lament—Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

Information about Holy Week & Easter services will be in the March Parish Post!

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS are available on the table across from the church office. The deadline is February 25!

LIFE LINE SCREENING, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Trinity United Church of Christ on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation.**

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/>

THIS SUNDAY IS THE LAST WEEK TO DONATE ITEMS FOR TRINITY PRESCHOOL. ITEMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE BOXES FOUND IN THE NARTHEX!!!



Here is a list of supplies needed by our Preschool. Please consider purchasing an item and placing it in the basket in the Narthex.

- Small dry erase markers
- Beginners pencils
- Foil
- Cotton balls
- Coffee filters-large & small
- Plain white muffin cups-small
- Glue bottles with brushes
- Scissor scoops
- Plastic spoons and forks
- Hot glue sticks

Thank you!

EXPLORING THE SKY ABOVE TRINITY U.C.C. WITH SUE BOWMAN

(Sue is a member of Trinity and a retired Astronomy teacher)

Calling all stargazers and those interested in enjoying a celestial evening out! Bring your telescopes and binoculars and join in the fun as the Trinity Preschool families and the members of Trinity explore **The Sky Above Trinity U.C.C.** This observation session will train the telescope at Jupiter and its moons, Earth's moon as well as deep sky clusters and nebulae. The Trinity Youth will be assisting with the setup and use of the equipment and may be found to be quite conversant on matters astronomical! Great chance to use the star chart provided or look ahead with one of these apps: *Star Chart, NASA app, Night Sky, Sky View Free, Star Walk2, Sky Safari.* You may wish to bring along lawn chairs. Until then, keep looking up!

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office

March 14th

6-7 pm Pizza

7 pm Brief Intro to the observation session

7:15 pm Observation begins

