



March 13, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Individual Lament

Rev. Bob Bistline

Do you prefer to grieve privately or with others? (Note: There is no wrong answer to this question-we all do it differently.) How can the Psalms help you when you are mourning a personal loss?

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.Carolyn 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

In the Bible laments take many forms. Sometimes a lament is made by an individual talking about a personal affliction or situation. Calling something an "individual lament" can be a bit of a misnomer. When we grieve, we rarely do so in a vacuum. Even if a loss is deeply personal, those around us may still be touched by the sadness, disappointment, or loss. Although we grieve in different ways about different things, we find common ground when we acknowledge that lament and grief are a part of the life of faith. When we lament, it is good to do so in the company of others. God created human beings to be in relationship, a companionship that is meant to be enjoyed no matter what the circumstances. At its best, the Christian community is a place where we can laugh and sing together, and where we can mourn together as well.

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

Adagio in A Minor

J. S. Bach

(from the Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C Major)

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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)

HOLY SCRIPTURES

COLLECT

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, our lives are a beautiful and sometimes terrifying mix of great joy and deep sorrow. When we grieve, remind us that no matter how personal our experience, we can still lean on the community of faith around us for hope and support. Inspire us to notice those in our midst who need encouragement this day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

And my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.

SERMON

Individual Lament

Rev. Bob Bistline

(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.

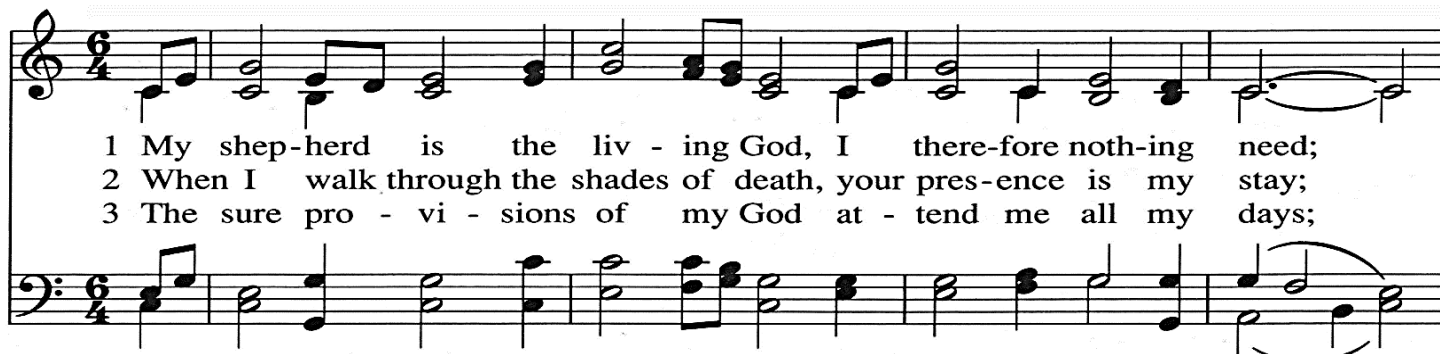
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

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.

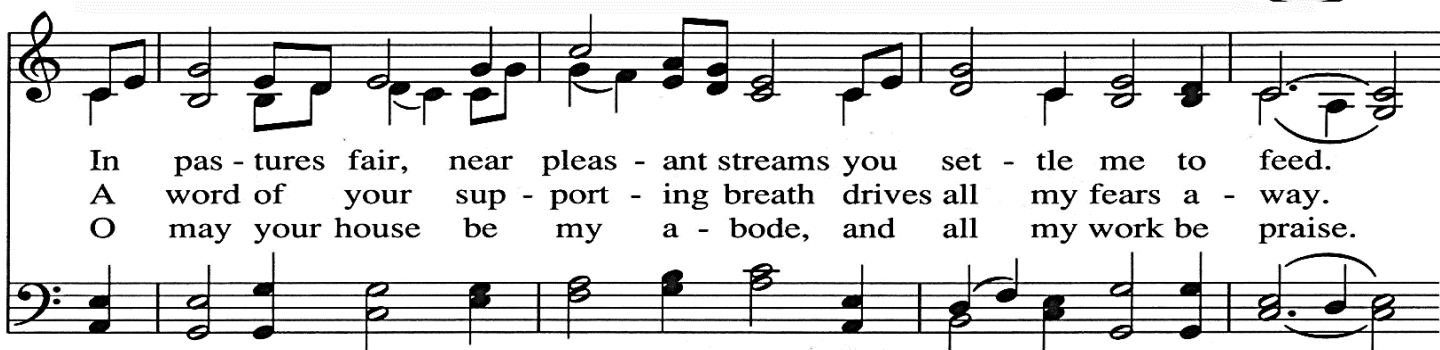
You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

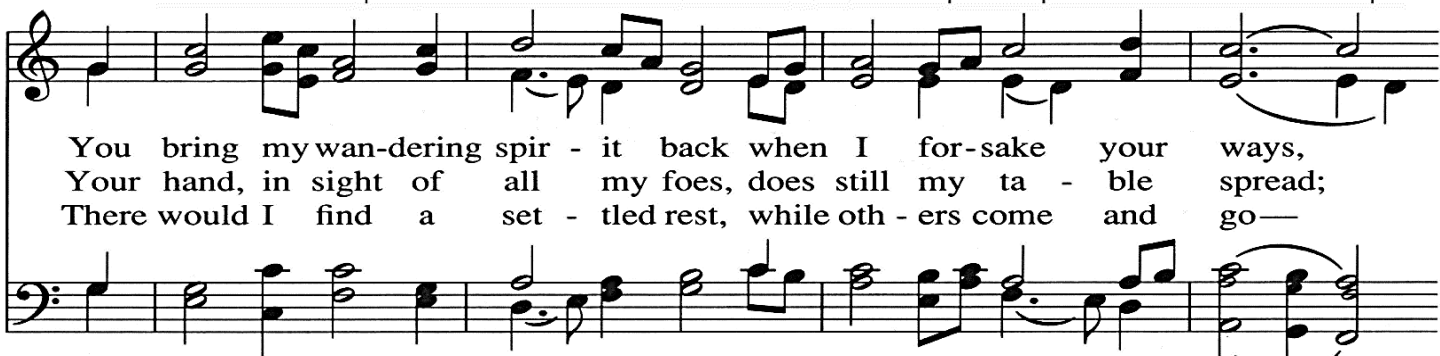
HYMN

My Shepherd Is the Living God


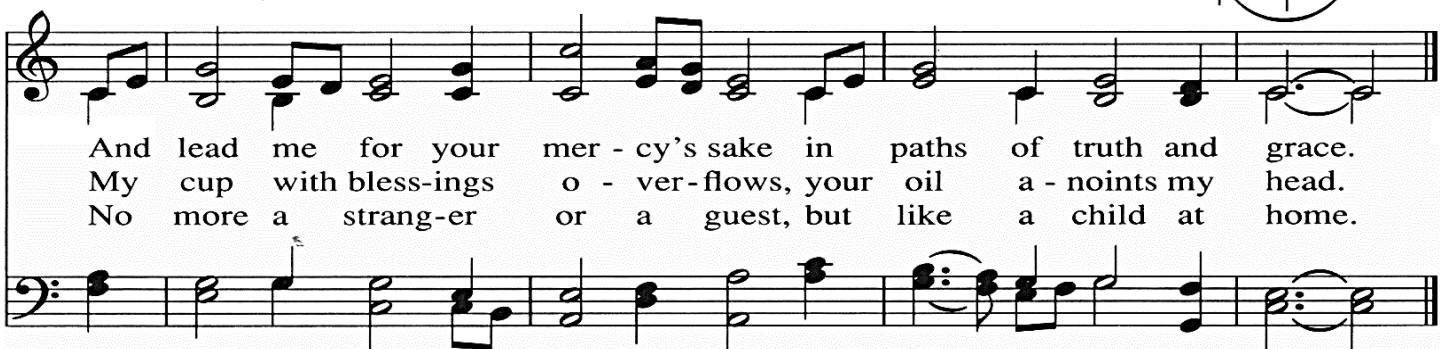
1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—



And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

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 peace of the whole world, and for our salvation, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For your church, and for all who minister in it, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For the leaders of nations, that they may ever seek justice and peace, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For all who are traveling, and for those in danger, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For those who are in need, especially those who are hungry, sick, and dying, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For those who are frightened and alone, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For those who are oppressed and suffer injustice, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

For rest and refreshment of our minds and bodies, we pray to you, O Christ;

Christ, have mercy.

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

Jesus, the Very Thought of You
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

arr. R. Lau

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

Just As I Am Without One Plea

#214

(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



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*
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Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Bob Bistline

Building Trustee: John Shelsky

Ushers/Greeters: Charlene Cristy, Kathy McCarty

Tonight we welcome Christine Oetama as our guest organist. Christine recently retired as our organist after serving here from 2017-2023.

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

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:

March 20: Communal Lament—Rev. Ken Trauger preaching



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

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.

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

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.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket.