

Abiding in

LOVE

April 28, 2024

WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity Reformed UCC, where all are welcome, especially those who are single, married, widowed, divorced, rich, middle-class, poor, LGBTQIA+ (or not), living nearby or far away. No matter where you were born, what language you speak, your skin color, ethnicity, culture, ability, or disability, we welcome you. We love crying newborns, active toddlers, kids, youths, adults, and seniors, and people who are thick, thin, short, tall, or in between. We welcome you whether you can sing high, sing low, sing only in the shower, try to sing, or if you cannot carry a tune in a bucket (our pastor can't either). You're welcome if you are a first-time visitor, have been here before, are a member, or if you do not really know why/what/who brought you here. We welcome you if you attend church weekly, sometimes, rarely, never, or if this is your first time ever. We welcome you if you are baptized, aren't baptized, don't know, or don't even know what that means. We extend a special welcome to you if you have been hurt by the Church and hope you will find nothing but love here. Please know that we welcome you with all your questions, doubts, beliefs, disbeliefs, and unbelief.

In short: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey: You are welcome here.
Period.

WEEKLY SERVICES



ONSITE

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

ONLINE

Live at tinyurl.com/trinf

For more info visit us on the web at

www.Collegeville.church



TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

532 East Main Street, Collegeville, PA 19426

PHONE: (610)489-4223

EMAIL: hello@collegeville.church

PASTOR SUZANNE: pastor@collegeville.church

NEW OR FIRST TIME HERE?

Thank you for choosing to worship here today.

We are blessed by your presence.

If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to be contacted, please let one of the ushers know and/or fill out one of the visitor cards located in the pews.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

We love children! Our greeters have activity pads to keep little ones entertained. Please let us know if you need to use our nursery - we're happy to show you the way. Please also consider enrolling your child in our Sunday School, which meets September-June on the 2nd & 4th Sundays from 10:30-11:30AM.

We look forward to seeing you and your family!

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today and May 12 & 26
VBS registration coming soon!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

May 19 after worship

COUNCIL MEETING

NEW DATE – 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM



Plant Sale Fundraiser

Order Forms are in the lower vestibule and online at www.collegeville.church or via the QR code.

Orders and payment due May 5.



Staff

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne E. Schwarz-Green

Administrative Assistant: Vacant

Voice & Bell Choirs: Cindy Golden

Organist: Alicia Hoffmann

Choir Accompanist: Mike Ruhl

Thank You

Flowers: Ellen S. Attas – In Memory of my parents Dale & Mary Burg.

Greeters:

Head Usher:

Leda Peterson

Reader:

Jim Gainor

Our Easter paraments, created for Trinity by Amy Overholtzer, feature a white and gold sunrise. The sunrise symbolizes the new day that has dawned through the Son's rising on Easter morning.

PRAYER BOX For the week of April 28, 2024

Please include the following individuals/causes to your daily prayers this week and also let us know if prayers need added or removed:

Special Requests: Steve T & Larry • Cliff P. • Betty and daughter Melissa (friends of Lisa K.) • Richard (brother-in-law of Debbie S.) • Sue (colleague of Chris W.) • Glenn DeWane • Judy S. (request by Sherry W.)

Ongoing Prayer Needs: Don & Joan R. • Beth Z. • Jackie H. (daughter of Angela S.) • Hubie B. • Leslie H. • Ruth F. • Audrey S. • Mike (brother of Heather W.) and friend Jer • George D. • Jenni (daughter of Lisa & Jim K.) • Father of Jim K. • Gloria Z. (mother of Tim Z.)

Order of Worship

April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

ALICIA HOFFMANN

OPENING WORDS

PASTOR SUZANNE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

NCH #43

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING

ALL VERSES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

C: **We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

C: **We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: When we make our home in the Vine and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear fruit.

C: **We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

All: **We will love and learn to love in all we do and build community with God and one another.**

*CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

All **Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love..**

(Moment of silent contemplation, confession, and prayer.)

KYRIE (RESPONSIVE)

NCH #750

(LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US, CHRIST..., LORD...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name, and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!!

All: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!

HYMN

NCH #23

THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

ALL VERSES

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your spirit that we may hear you in the Word read and proclaimed and truly worship you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

SERMON

EASTER HAPPENED: NOW WHAT? - CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT

***HYMN**

NCH #454

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

ALL VERSES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PRAYER RESPONSE (BLUE HYMNAL, UNDER PEW, #501)

**Sung Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord; And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As stewards of the kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving.



(YOU MAY PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE OFFERING PLATE. OR GIVE ONLINE USING THE QR CODE)

OFFERTORY

CHANCEL CHOIR

ALLELUIA, PRAISE!

CHERUBINI/WAGNER

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

(BLUE HYMNAL, UNDER PEW, #506)

**Sung Response We give Thee but Thine own, What'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING & LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: Thank you, God, for this high and holy moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. Take our offerings, our witness, our lives to benefit all your human family. May your glory be known among us and in all the world. We pray in the name of Christ who taught us to pray, saying:
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**

***CLOSING HYMN**

NCH #76

SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

ALL VERSES

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

L: Now go in hope, in peace, in joy; go to love and serve God.

All: Thanks be to God

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

NCH #812

THREEFOLD AMEN

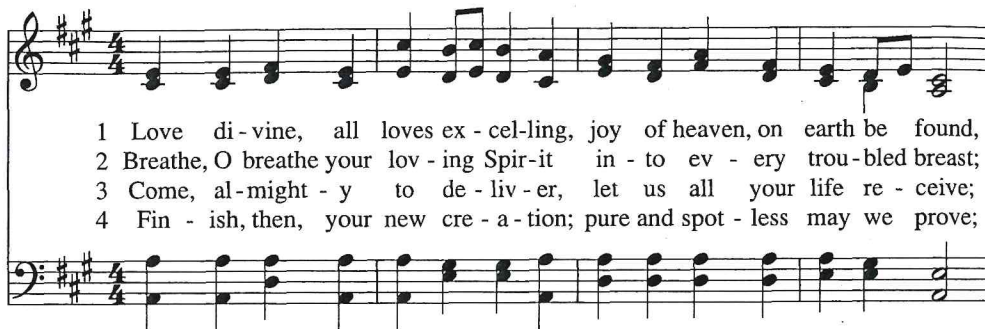
POSTLUDE

Improvisation

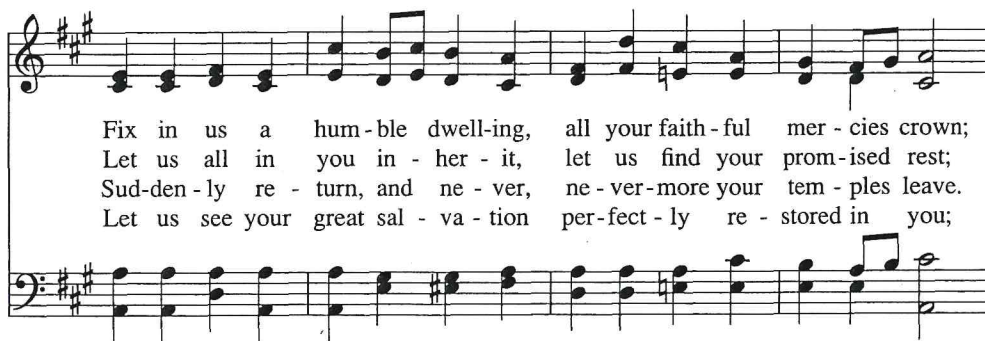
ALICIA HOFFMAN

**Congregation may stand.*

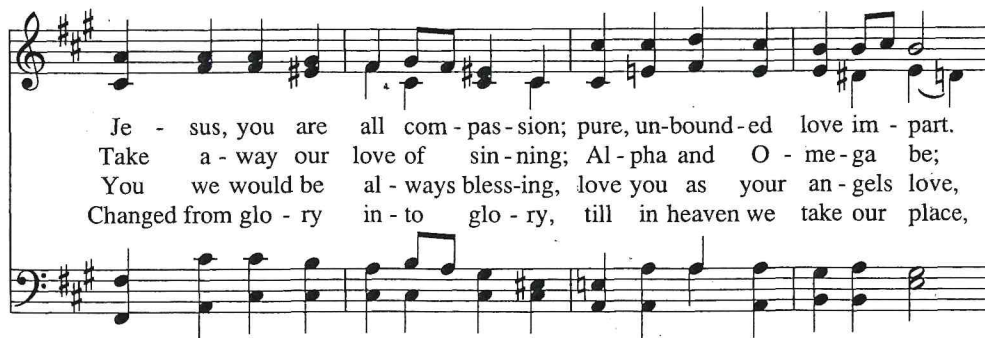
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27**Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.*


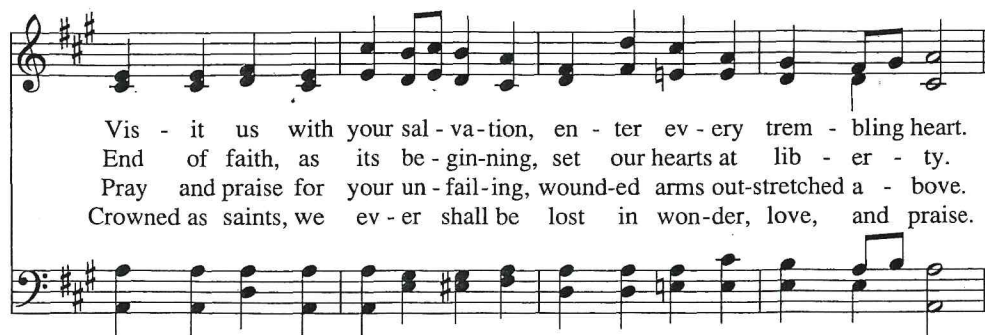
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism" who was skilled at

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

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 mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Lord, I want to Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
8.6.8.3. with refrain

African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess-ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book*, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or 'to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

“Abiding in Love”

“We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates.” –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women’s resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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