



**STRONG
AND
TENDER**

March 16, 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

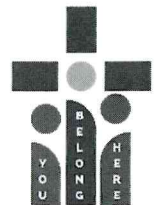
For more info visit us on the web at

www.Collegeville.church or email

hello@collegeville.church

PASTOR SUZANNE:

pastor@collegeville.church



TRINITY
Reformed Church - United Church of Christ
www.collegeville.church

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne E. Schwarz-Green
Voice & Bell Choirs: Robert Rudolph, MM

Administrative Assistant: Fable Teaford
Organist: Alicia Hoffmann

35 days until Easter! Join us after service today for Fellowship Sunday – where coffee, conversations, and community come together. Who could you invite to experience our welcoming church family?

Order of Worship

March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday in Lent

*(*Congregation may stand; **Bold** indicates Congregational responses)*

PRELUDE

ALICIA HOFFMANN

OPENING WORDS/GREETINGS

PASTOR SUZANNE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NCH 1

IMMORTAL INVISIBLE GOD ONLY WISE

Vs. 1,3,4

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is our light and our salvation;

C: **Whom shall we fear?**

L: In dialogue with God, we find our path.

C: **One thing we ask of the Lord, one thing we seek:**

L: To dwell in God's house and to inquire in God's temple.

All: **Let us worship God.**

*BELL CHOIR

CATHEDRAL

LORENZ, 1970, CHORISTER GUILD

*CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: The practice of prayer invites us into honest conversation with God. Like Abraham questioning God's promise, or like the psalmist crying out from the depths, confession allows us to bring our true selves before God. As we prepare to confess, let us remember that God desires truth in our inward being.

All: **God of covenant conversation, we confess that we often treat prayer as a monologue rather than a dialogue. We come to you with our shopping lists of requests, but rarely pause to listen. We speak quickly but reflect slowly. We confess our fear of silence and our resistance to the vulnerability that true dialogue requires. Teach us the wisdom of prayer—not as magical thinking, but as authentic relationship. Create in us listening hearts that recognize your voice and respond with trust. Amen.**

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

KYRIE (RESPONSIVE)

NCH 750

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear these words from Isaiah: "Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear." Even when our prayers falter, God's listening never fails. In Jesus Christ, who prayed "not my will but yours be done," we are forgiven and invited back into sacred conversation. Thanks be to God.

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN OF FAITH NCH 520 ETERNAL SPIRIT OF THE LIVING CHRIST ALL**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (LED BY READER)

All: God who speaks in whispers and wonders, open our hearts to your Word. Teach us to listen as Abraham listened, beneath the stars. Help us to question as Jesus questioned, in love and lament. May our reading of scripture be not mere information, but conversation - a sacred dialogue that transforms our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS	Old Testament	Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18
	Psalms:	Psalms 27
	Gospel:	Luke 13:31-35

SERMON SACRED CONVERSATIONS (SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NCH 505 SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER Vs. 1,3**

**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**

***BELL CHOIR I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR EKSTON, LORENZ PUBLISHERS**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

In prayer, we open ourselves to God's purposes; in giving, we align our resources with God's work in the world. Both practices are ways we say "yes" to the covenant God has made with us. With grateful hearts, let us present our offerings to God-

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



OFFERTORY CHANCEL CHOIR GOD OF HEAVEN SORENSON

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

All: God of Abraham and Sarah, Bless these gifts as expressions of our dialogue with you, and bless our prayers—whether spoken in words or embodied in action—that they may align us more fully with your heart for the world. Use both our giving and our praying to draw us deeper into covenant relationship with you and with a world in need. In Christ's name, Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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 519 STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER 1,4**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

L: Go now into the world, carrying on the conversation with God that begins here. May your prayers be honest, your listening be deep, and your response be faithful. And may the God who established covenant with Abraham, the Christ who laments with love over our cities, and the Spirit who intercedes with sighs too deep for words, be with you in every sacred conversation, this day and always. Amen.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE THREEFOLD AMEN Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

ALICIA HOFFMANN

Choose one thing to fast from this week - it might be a meal, social media, or negative self-talk. Use the hunger (the urge to do "the thing" you committed to not doing) as a reminder to pray.

**Congregation May Stand*

CHANCEL CHOIR: GOD OF HEAVEN

God of Heaven, God of all the earth and sky master of all nature
Who gives birth to snow from heaven? Holds the waves at ocean's edge
Gives the orders to the morning, shows each dawn its place to shine
God of Heaven God of Heaven, God of all the earth and sky

God of Ages, God of Ages, God who wrote the Book of Time
Sovereign ruler, Alpha and Omega, Saints before, He's guided safely

History's pages signed by Him. Author of our days and hours
Things to come are held secure God of Ages

God of Ages, Alpha and Omega

God of Power! God who breaks the darkness
Righteous Warrior, Champion of His children
Goes before us into battle, good and evil bow to Him
Those in bondage freed forever. Victories won at His command

God who heals us. God who gives us peace and hope
God who listens, carries all our fragile
Dreams and heartaches, wins and failures,
Bands the broken; hides the weak
New beginnings freely offered. Who can make us whole again?

God who heals us, God who heals us. God of Power, God of power
God of Ages, God of Ages, God of Heaven



Easter Lily Orders

Please fill out the information below and return no later than NOON on April 10th to the church office with your payment of \$15.50 per lily. The form and check (payable to: Trinity Reformed Church UCC with "Easter Lily" in the memo line) can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off at the church office, or be mailed to the church (address on newsletter). Information will be listed as it appears on this form. **Please print clearly the names as you would like them listed in the bulletin insert.**

Total Number of Easter Lilies ordered (@ \$15.50 each)

Given By: _____

In honor of memory of celebration of (check one)

Name or Event: _____

Given By: _____

In honor of memory of celebration of (check one)

Name or Event: _____

Given By: _____

In honor of memory of celebration of (check one)

Name or Event: _____

Given By: _____

In honor of memory of celebration of (check one)

Name or Event: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check Cash

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE COLLEGEVILLE-
TRAPPE MINISTERIUM LENTEN SERVICES
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM**

**SEE BELOW FOR ENTIRE SCHEDULE
INCLUDING MARCH 26TH WHEN TRINITY IS THE HOST**

2025 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

HOSTED BY THE
COLLEGEVILLE-TRAPPE MINISTERIUM

*A Lenten Journey
Through the Psalms*

12

MAR

St. James Episcopal Church

PREACHER: REV. ANDREW WEBER

19

MAR

Thomas Payne UUF

PREACHER: REV. BETTY WRIGHT-RIGGINS

26

MAR

Trinity Reformed Church UCC

PREACHER: REV. DEBRA STEVENS

2

APR

Evansburg United Methodist

PREACHER: REV. WARREN WELECK

9

APR

Augustus Lutheran Church

PREACHER: REV. MIKE SOWARDS

*Services
begin at
7:30 PM*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

520

Frank von Christierson, 1974; rev. 1979

Rom. 8:26-27

Unison

1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your
3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God, and

ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as
pur - pose and your will, Where I have failed, what I have done a -
all hu - man - i - ty; Ful - fill - ment of my life in love out -

life, and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
miss; held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
poured— my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.

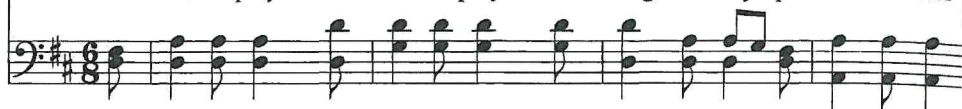
Frank von Christierson's text was published by The Hymn Society in the 1974 collection *New Hymns, Songs, and Prayers for Church and Home*. Alfred Smith, an Episcopal minister who first studied music as an adult, composed *Sursum Corda* for a hymn, "Lift up your hearts. . ."

Tune: SURSUM CORDA 10.10.10.10.
Alfred M. Smith, 1941

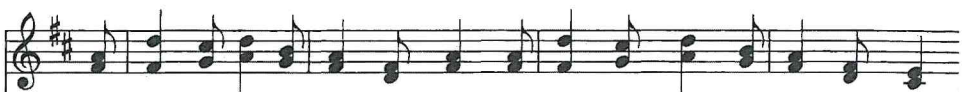
Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845; alt.

- 1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known,
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-tum!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful-ness en-gage the wait-ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of-ten found re-lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re-tum, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad-ly take my sta-tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a-way my ev-ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!



(Standing in the Need of Prayer)

African-American spiritual; alt.

Leader

1 Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O God,
 2 Not the preach - er, nor the dea - con, but it's me, O God,
 3 Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's me, O God,
 4 Not the strang - er, nor my neigh - bor, but it's me, O God,

All *Leader*

stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not the preach - er, nor the dea - con, but it's
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not the strang - er, nor my neigh - bor, but it's

All *Refrain*

me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer. It's
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

me, it's me, it's me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

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 for kids. Please let us know if you need to use our nursery - we're happy to show you the way, and 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

TODAY

Coffee & Conversation
Family Game Day
"Soup and Snacks"

March 26, 2025

Lenten Service, 7:30pm
At Trinity

March 30, 2025

Sunday School

March 30, 2025

Spring Fling for Church Kids
After Sunday School
11:30-2:30

Thank You

Flowers: Trinity's dearly departed

Ushers: Linda Augustine and Mark Citrone

Greeters: Linda Augustine and Mark Citrone

Reader: Judy Fryer

The color purple is used during Lent to symbolize penance, preparation, and sacrifice. It is also a reminder of renewal. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts the forty days until Easter.

PRAYER BOX For the week of March 16, 2025

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: Sue C. (friend of Bev A) • Ben and Jess. (Beth Z. godson and wife) • Family of Cheryl B, passed February 16 • Jennifer M. (niece of Jim G.) • Marjorie F. (Mary Ellen's cousin) • Irene B.(grandmother of Fable T) • Shannon C. • Josh (family of Deb S' friends) • Dave C. • Patrice P. • Bev A. • Jeanne B.

Ongoing Prayer Needs: Steve T & Larry • Don & Joan R. • Hubie B. • Leslie H. • Ruth F. • Audrey S. • George D. • Jenni. (daughter of Lisa & Jim K.) • Father of Jim K. • Glenn D. • Cliff P. • Lynne P.

March 16, 2025

Luke 13:31-35

Strong and Tender

With each step toward the cross, Jesus' reveals sides to him that are rarely seen. Like his feisty side here in Luke's Gospel. After being warned by some Pharisees to leave because Herod wants him dead, Jesus replies, "Go tell that fox . . . I will keep driving out demons. I must press on."

Strong words, indeed. Yet soon after those words are uttered, Jesus laments over Jerusalem. It is in this lamenting we see a feminine side, as he expresses a tenderness in wanting to take the Holy City's children and protect them under his wing like a mothering hen.

Anyone who has raised chickens — or perhaps knows of someone who joined the backyard flock craze a few years ago — knows how sweet it is to gaze upon balls of yellow fluff peeping underneath their mother's wing. It tugs at the most hardened of hearts.

There once was an old farmer who admitted that there were many nights where he would sit in the barn and watch a hen and her chicks, noting that he could stare at the endearing scene forever.

Yes, we know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We know him as the Prince of Peace, Counselor, Friend, Teacher and Healer. Yet how many times does the image of Jesus as Mothering Hen come to mind?

Take a moment now and hold that side of Jesus in your mind. Envision yourself being protected from the harsh world underneath the mothering wings of Jesus. How does that make you feel? Warm? Loved? Secure?

It was that image that held Karolina Sandell-Berg in her time of grief. When she was 26, Sweden's prolific poet and hymn writer, witnessed her father, a Lutheran pastor, being swept over the side of a ship during storm. There was nothing she could do to save him.

So distraught, she did what she knew best. She wrote a hymn focusing on the protective wings that shield us in times of danger and sorrow. "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior" (1865), set to a Swedish folk tune, soon became a beloved hymn often sung as a children's lullaby.

This Lent, let us spend more time getting to know Jesus' soft, mothering side. Find a day this week and light a candle, read Luke's Gospel lesson for today again, and search for Sandell-Berg's hymn on Apple music or Spotify. If you don't have access to these, ask a friend to help you find "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior." Then let its words and melody lull you into a place of healing and serenity.

Lord God, may the words to this hymn be our prayer for today: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. O be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my every moment be lived within thy grace. Amen.



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

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