

No matter  
who you are  
or where you  
are on life's  
journey,  
you are  
welcome here!



**TRINITY**  
**REFORMED CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



# Call to Worship (read in unison)

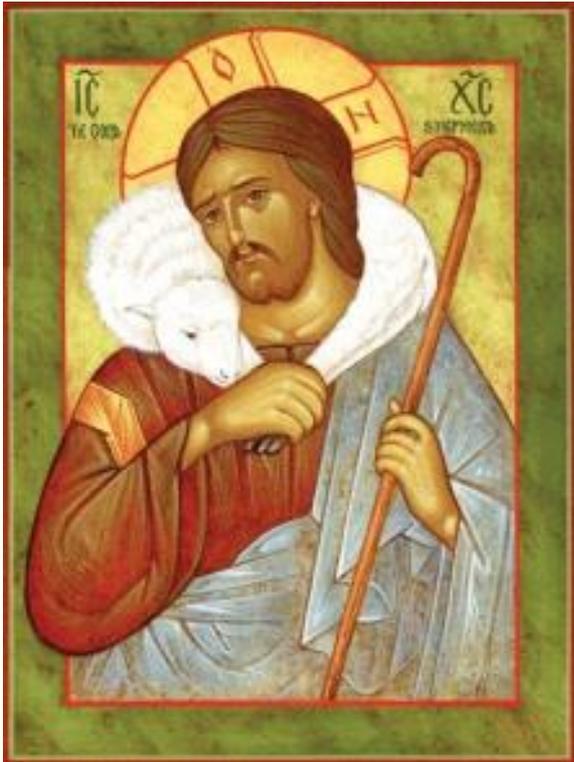
## Psalm 23

---

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

# Confession(read in unison)

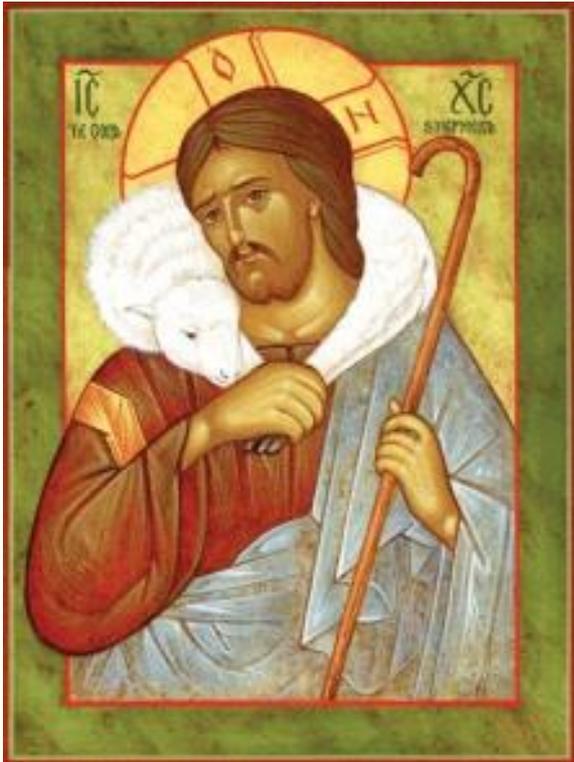
---



O God, as we walk through this dark time, we confess that we are fearful and anxious. We fear we will run out of food and basic supplies. We fear we will not have enough money. We fear that our anxiety will get the best of us. We fear we and others we love will get sick. Forgive us when we become so self-consumed that we only focus on the dire situation and fail to see goodness around us. Today we pray that you will lead us to a still place where we can feel and know your presence. We pray that your promise is true, that you constantly pursue us with goodness and love, and that we are never alone. Amen.

# Assurance

---



*Pastor: Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil.*

**People: For God is with us. His rod and his staff, they comfort us.**

*Leader: Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me. And I lay down my life for my sheep. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."*

**ALL: Rejoice! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**



---

We began reading  
the Sermon on the  
Mount two weeks  
ago

Today we continue  
to receive  
instructions on how  
to be/not to be

## Matthew 6:19-7:12

---

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 - continued

---

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 - continued

---

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 - continued

---

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye. “Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 - continued

---

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets

# LENT 2020



---

*During Lent, we have followed the traditional reading up with a more contemporary version of the same reading.*

*The contemporary Version combines various translations and paraphrases of the Bible, mostly*

- The Message*
- The Voice*
- Common English Bible*
- and my own editing.*

*The contemporary reading for this week reads as follows:*

## Matthew 6:19-7:12

---

“Stop hoarding treasure for your own benefit down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Instead, stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars and where it will never lose its value. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

“Your eyes are like windows, drawing light into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body becomes like a dark cellar. If you close the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

# Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration and loyalty of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both. You must choose one or the other.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“So, my counsel is: Do not worry about things! You have a God-given life and God-given body, and they are more important than what to wear or what to eat. Don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds in the sky. They do not store food for the winter. They do not plant gardens and store the surplus – for your heavenly Father feed them. And you are even more valuable to God than birds.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed people in the country look shabby alongside them.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do God’s best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with what you are getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. Some people don’t realize that God fusses over every one of us and knows exactly what we need. But you know both God and how God works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

# Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It’s easy to see a smear on your neighbor’s glasses and be oblivious to the dirt and grime on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, ‘Let me clean those glasses for you so you can see,’ when your own glasses are crusted with dirt? It’s this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe the dirt of your own field of vision and you might be fit to offer a cleaning cloth to your neighbor.

## Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“Don’t be flip with the sacred. Banter and silliness give no honor to God. Don’t reduce holy mysteries to slogans or tidbits of scripture. In trying to be all smart, you might just be digging yourself a hole you can’t get out of.

“Don’t bargain with God. Don’t try to sound “right”. Be direct. Ask for what you need and don’t give up. This isn’t a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we’re in. If you sincerely knock, ask, and seek – you will receive what you need. Look at it like this: If your child asks for bread, do you trick him a stone instead? If your daughter asks for fish, do you scare her with a live snake on her plate? Even at your worst, you wouldn’t think of such a thing. You’re at least decent to your own children. So, don’t you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?

# Matthew 6:19-7:12 continued

---

“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior:

Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them.

Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

# Sermon

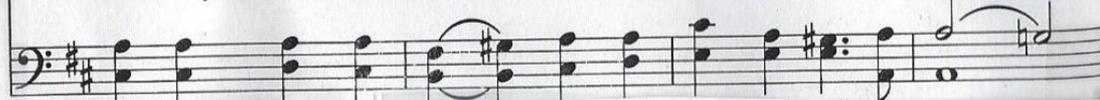
---

Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green,  
Pastor

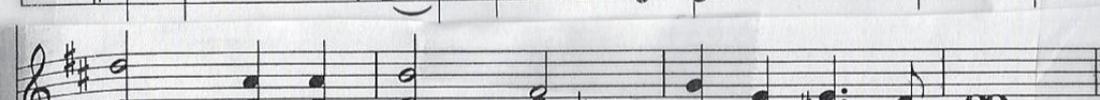
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,  
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,  
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



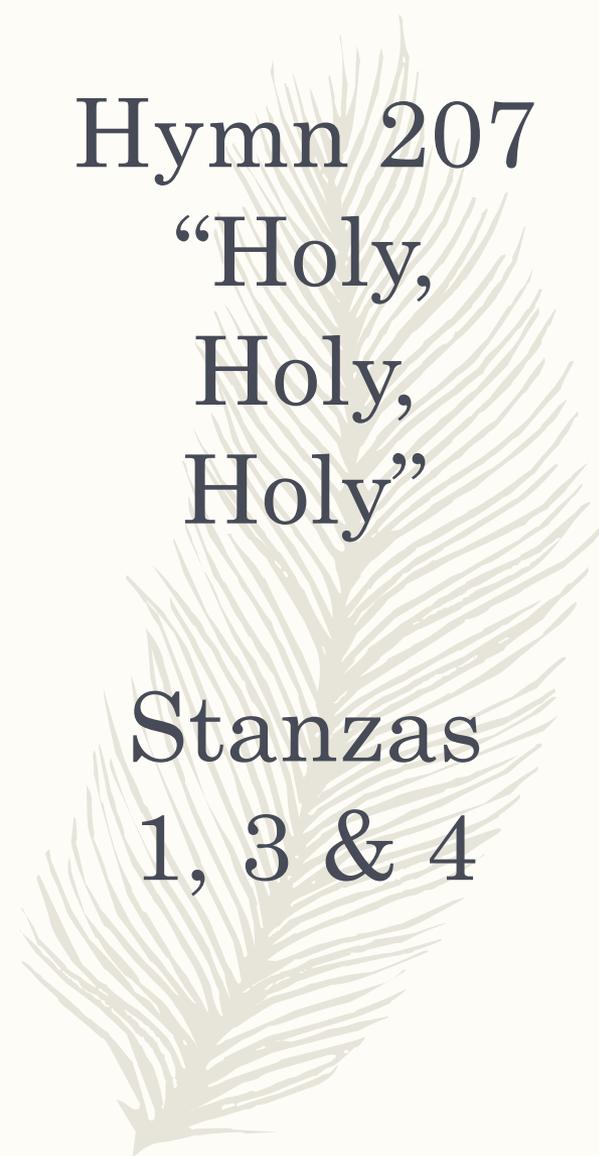
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

# Hymn 207

## “Holy, Holy, Holy”

### Stanzas

### 1, 3 & 4



## Prayers of the People

Our brother Jesus, who healed the sick  
fed the hungry  
and cared for those whom society had cast  
aside,

be with us as this virus ravages the earth  
that the Creator so lovingly gave to us.

Set aside our fear

help us to understand our duty toward others,  
and how your call for community at this time  
means isolating ourselves for the good of all.

Walk with our caregivers – doctors, nurses,  
and hospital staff, nursing home staff,  
chaplains, and mental health caregivers.

Walk with all of our first responders.

Protect them and their families.

Support their sense of purpose in a time when  
little makes sense.

## Prayers of the People

We pray for all of those who have tested positive for the virus,

and for all of those who worry they will.

Ease the consequences of this virus on them all, whether it be physical, mental or spiritual.

We especially hold up those folks that are older or immune-compromised.

We pray for parents who have to explain what is going on to their children.

We pray for children who have to explain what is going on to their parents who suffer from dementia.

We pray for those who have anxiety as we try to hold our own anxiety at bay.

We pray for those who are afraid that they will face economic collapse,

and those small business owners burdened with balancing decisions about the welfare of their employees

with the welfare of their own families.

## Prayers of the People

We pray for teachers and students to look with hope toward the future.

We pray for our leaders who are limited creatures, like every human being, and we pray for mercy for our own limitations in times like these.

We pray for our church, that it may focus on itself as a community of faith

and continue to act accordingly.

We ask for peace that passes all understanding.

We know that although we walk through the shadow of the valley of death,

you comfort us, knowing our plight,

and loving us as your children.

We ask all of this through the one God who is mother and father of us all.

ALL: LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR  
PRAYER! AMEN

# Keeping in touch

---



- On the **web** at TrinityUCCCollegeville.org
- “Like” us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/TrinityUCCCollegeville](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityUCCCollegeville) and click on GROUPS to see our members only page and join there
- Call Each other or reach out!
- Follow our Facebook page for updates and ZOOM meetings

# BENEDICTION

---

May God Bless you and protect you  
and yours.

May God make God's face shine on  
you and be gracious to you.

May God lift God's face to you and  
grant you peace.

**ALL: AMEN**



No matter  
who you are  
or where you  
are on life's  
journey,  
you are  
welcome here!



**TRINITY**  
**REFORMED CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST