

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 21, 2024 9:30 AM
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



—TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD—

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.*

PRELUDE

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

Larry Shackley

GREETING

Celebrant: We rejoice in you, O God; all the earth rejoices and sings glory to your name. As Magi followed the bright Star in the East that led them to the Christ of God, so may we follow the Light of Christ that dispels the darkness and enlightens the world. As Christ’s beauty shines forth to all the world, so may we praise your great salvation and celebrate the merciful love that reconciles us to you.

CENTERING SONG*

“Christ Beside Me”

(Tune: Morning Has Broken)

**1. Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me never to part.**

**2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising light of my life.**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers, we are called to follow Jesus.

People: What a challenge! What an opportunity!

L: Called to move among the people. Called to feel with them, to care for them, to touch their souls and be touched by them.

P: Called to discern those gifts of life which God has hidden deep within each of us, and to share freely those gifts of our hearts, our hands, our whole selves.

L: Called to place our gifts into God's hands, and to follow with hope.

P: We will hear the call to follow Jesus. We will listen for his voice to lead us, calling us God's children, calling us each by name.

L: Let us pray:

We thank you, O God, that you have spoken to people of faith at many times and in various ways, and that in Jesus, your living Word, you have revealed yourself among us. Grant that we who gather seeking your presence and eagerly awaiting your Word, may be blessed by your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

****HYMN**

“Lift High The Cross”

#159

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. Refrain**

**2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. Refrain**

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. Refrain

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Celebrant: *Let us share signs of welcome and peace with our neighbors.*

-WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD-

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jonah bears witness to God's judgment against Nineveh and the people repent and are spared.

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 62

#787

R ♪ I sing your praise for steadfast love; fulfill your purpose for me. ♪

Liturgist: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

People: for my hope is from God.

who alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

L: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

**P: Trust in God at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before God who is a refuge for us. R**

L: Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

**P: Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.**

L: Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
power belongs to God,

**P: and to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love,
for you repay all according to their work. R**

SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth.

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+ Mark 1:14-20 +

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus

said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. All: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON
CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Follow Me"
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

**The Rev. Richard G. Reed
John Carter**

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: Arise, shine for your light has come;

Response: shine your glory on us, O Lord.

Gracious and loving Creator, in Christ you have revealed to all the earth the mystery of your love, spreading your illumination and your abundant promises to all humanity. Hear us now and visit us with that light as we pray: Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Guide your church, O Holy One, that it may manifest the boundless riches of Christ by becoming a true servant of your grace.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Let the nations come to your light, O God, and bring rulers to the brightness of your day, that they may rule your people righteously, speak truthfully and serve the poor with justice and equity.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Thwart the schemes of those who abuse the resources of the world, O Creator, that the showers that water the earth may produce bountifully for all. Call us to renew our work as good stewards of your earth.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Manifest your Son to our community, O Merciful One, and lead us to your presence, that we might remember the lowly and poor, and preserve the lives of the needy.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially those we have named aloud and those we now bring before you in silence.
(moment of silence) We give thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us – treasures of your boundless grace.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Celebrant: And so, gracious and loving God, we come before you with the gifts of ourselves: Accept the offering of our lives as vessels to hold and pour out your presence and let the light of your Spirit shine within and among us that we may share in the mystery of your loving purposes for all creation, through Jesus Christ our Savior 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: Together, we who have heard the call to follow Jesus, are also offering ourselves to the world, and opening ourselves to God's blessing, every time we give of ourselves more deeply to others. Through our tithes and offerings we renew our baptismal vows, and affirm God's reign in our lives as stewards of God's gifts. Come, let us bring our lives before God in the gifts we now offer.

DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

#95

Celebrant: Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- WE RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS –

INVITATION

Todd and Briana Steinberg

Celebrant: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we are each received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Celebrant: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Celebrant: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: I do, with the help of God.

QUESTION TO THE CANDIDATES AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? If so, please answer:

All: I promise, with the help of God.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Celebrant: Let us, the members of the Tully United Community Church, express our welcome to Todd and Briana, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. God, grant that together we may continue to grow in His knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Moderator: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Tully United Community Church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love and fellowship, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

INVITATION AND WELCOME

*I invite to come forward **Todd and Briana Steinberg** with Godparents **Nicholas George and Rebecca Ruffino** to present the child for baptism.*

They were bringing children to Jesus that he might hold them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the realm of God." And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

ADDRESS

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

Pastor: Todd and Briana do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parent(s): We do.

Pastor: Todd and Briana, Nicholas and Rebecca, will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian Church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): We do, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND BLESSING OF WATER

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and

crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit.

Now bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless him who is touched by this water that he may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on his life. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: By what name is this child to be called?

Parent(s): Julian James Steinberg.

Pastor: Julian James Steinberg, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Julian, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the Church.

PRESENTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

****HYMN**

"Jesus Loves Me"

v.1

#191

PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Let us pray for this child baptized today. Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child, Julian. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless his parents, family, and friends. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Julian. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

HYMN

"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"

#206

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In Him, there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

- 2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain:**
- 3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain:**

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Celebrant: O Christ, our only Savior, so dwell within us that we may go forth with the light of hope in our eyes, with the fire of inspiration on our lips, with your Word on our tongues, and with your love in our hearts. And the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit go with you always.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Children's Song Medley"

Mark Hayes

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- **Are you, like Jonah, ever reluctant to preach God's Good News? What are the barriers that keep you from doing so? How can you overcome them?**
- **What do you do to release feelings of contempt or distrust of others from your heart?**
- **How do we proclaim God's Kingdom in this present time?**
- **In what ways do you struggle to follow the teachings and example of Jesus?**

***Centering Song**

There is an ancient practice known as Centering Prayer that has been used for centuries for Christian meditation. To practice this type of prayer, you are simply supposed to sit in a comfortable position, still and relaxed, while you focus on one sacred word ("Jesus," "Love," "Savior," "Spirit," etc.) until only that word is on your mind. The goal is that you be able to shut out all distractions and quiet your inner self~your thoughts and consciousness~so that you can experience God's presence within you personally and powerfully. Centering Song is a musical form of Centering Prayer. The words that we sing help us focus our attention away from ourselves and toward God while the music is meant to quiet our spirits and bring us into an attitude of prayer.