

# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 18, 2024, 9:30 AM

*The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor*



## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

**-WE GATHER IN THIS SACRED SPACE-**

### **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 Facebook Live.*

### **PRELUDE**

**“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”**

**J. Schrader**

### **GREETING**

*Celebrant: Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my Life, and revive me from death. Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds. Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of thy love. - Dimitrii of Rostov*

### **CENTERING HYMN**

**“You Came To Seek And Save The Lost”**

**Insert**

## MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

### CALL TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: The path is unknown to us, O Lord. We fear the Lenten journey.

**People: There may be hidden dangers and discoveries that we dread.**

L: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

**P: Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of kindness help us return to that love.**

*Celebrant: I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. Together let us pray:*

**P: We confess, Lord, that we have sometimes fallen prey to the temptations our Lord rejected. Unlike the Savior who refused to turn stones into bread, we have misused our powers and positions for personal advantage. Unlike the Savior who refused to leap from the pinnacle of the temple, we have gotten ourselves into precarious situations, then expected God to miraculously save us. Unlike the Savior who refused to bow to Satan, we have compromised our standards in order to make personal gains. May we, like the Christ, recognize temptation for what it is, and reject its subtle attempt to control us. (silent prayer)**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

“Lord, Have Mercy”

H. Gregory

### WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE

*Celebrant: Hear the Good News: “Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us.” In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, you are forgiven!*

### \*\*HYMN

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Insert

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days, For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.

2. As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the vict’ry win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.

3. As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord, To die  
to self, and chiefly live By Thy most holy Word.

4. And through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

5. Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering over past,  
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!

**\*\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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

**People:** And also with you.

**- WE ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE WORD -**

**FIRST LESSON**

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

**Liturgist:** God sets the rainbow in the sky as a sign of God's everlasting covenant.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Here ends the reading.

**THE PSALTER**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

**Resp. 2**

**#756**

**R**    *♪ Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. ♪*

**Liturgist:** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**People:** **O my God, in you I trust;**

**let me not be put to shame;**

**let not my enemies exult over me.**

**L:** Let none who wait for you be put to shame;

**P:** **let them be ashamed who are clothed in treachery.**

L: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

**P: teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

**P: for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long. R**

L: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

**P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**

L: Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way.  
and leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches them their way.

**P: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep the Lord's covenant and testimonies. R**

## **SECOND LESSON**

**First Peter 3:18-22**

Liturgist: A reading from First Peter.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**Here ends the reading.**

## **\*\*THE 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 1:9-15 +**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a

voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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."

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

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Richard G. Reed**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Prayer For Guidance"  
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

**Allen Pote**

**- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -**

**SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS**

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

**#894**

Bidding: You are a hiding place for me, O God;

Response: **preserve me from trouble.**

**Celebrant:** Lord of all that is silent and all that is spoken; hear the prayers of your people who in love and faithfulness call out to you, saying: You are a hiding place for me, O God; **Preserve me from trouble.**

Liturgist: Because our lives are full of detail and deadlines, with so much to be done and so little time in which to do it all, we find few moments in which to savor the beauty of the world, to contemplate the fierce endurance of everything that lives, to enter that timeless realm of divine mystery which surrounds us. O God, grant us a glimpse of this inner sanctuary, and the desire and calm to dwell there in prayer.

You are a hiding place for me, O God; **Preserve me from trouble.**

As we begin this journey through Lent, help us to make more time for study, and more time for silence, that we may hear your voice in our lives. Open us to hear the words of Jesus in new ways, as they were new to those who first heard them. Challenge us and renew us in this holy season that we may be worthy to be called your children.

You are a hiding place for me, O God; **Preserve me from trouble.**

Hear our prayers for all who are ill and who suffer in these days, especially those whom we have named aloud and those we name to you in

silence. *(silence)* Touch those who suffer with your peace and help us to be arms of compassion, strength and hope to them. We ask your peace with all who mourn. May we all have comfort in knowing that indeed you have prepared a place for all who live as your children.

You are a hiding place for me, O God; **Preserve me from trouble.**

Build a road in the deserts of our hearts, O God—a road of worship and thanksgiving—and guide us in our journey of faith in this and every season of our lives, that we might be ever closer to you and to your Son Jesus 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 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: As people who are given great hope in the midst of life's desert places, we are called to offer our lives anew. Let us bring the offerings of our lives and of our daily labors, that God might bless them and increase them in the ministry of hope to the world.*

#### **\*\*DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**#95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant: God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen*

#### **\*\*HYMN**

**“When Jesus Came To Jordan”**

**#252**

**1. When Jesus came to Jordan To be baptized by John,  
He did not come for pardon, But as the sinless one.  
He came to share repentance With all who mourn their sins,**

To speak the vital sentence With which good news begins.

2. He came to share temptation, Our utmost woe and loss,  
For us and our salvation To die upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended On him, the Son of Man,  
The hidden years had ended, The age of grace began.

3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us To keep the vows we make,  
This very day invade us, And every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction, The gift we covet most:  
To share the resurrection That leads to Pentecost.

**- WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS -**

### **BLESSING**

Celebrant: May the God of Grace and Glory go with you as you follow this Lenten path without fear. Wherever it takes you, and to whomever it takes you, may you go with the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, both now and for ever.

**P: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

**"This Is My Father's World"**

**M. Babcock**

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**\*\*All who are able, please stand.**

### **Thoughts to Ponder After Worship**

- *What are the signs in your life that assure you of God's love and care?*
- *What are the things in life that tempt you the most? How do you resist them?*
- *Are there things that you find hard to forgive in others? In yourself? Is it hard to accept God's forgiveness?*
- *When is a time in your life that the angels were keeping watch over you?*