

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 17, 2024, 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



FIFTH 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 social media.

PRELUDE

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Philip Bliss

Kay Crosley Bell Choir

GREETING

Celebrant: Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

CENTERING HYMN**“You Came To Seek And Save The Lost”****Insert****MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION****CALL TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Come, friends, and sit with him who cares for family and strangers alike.

People: We gather with the one whose lavish love has been poured out for all.

L: Let us bring to God our best, and pour out our lives as a gift.

P: May our hearts be open to the beauty of Christ's presence as we worship God in spirit and in truth.

Officiant: My siblings in Christ, as we prepare to encounter God anew today in the gathering of this community, in the hearing of the Word, and in acts of kindness and caring, it is good that we should call to mind our sins, and seek God's promised forgiveness together.

Together let us pray:

People: Forgive the poverty of our worship, our unbelief and hesitating witness, our blindness to what you would have us to be and to do, O God. Forgive us for imagining ourselves to be the center of the world, and for seeking security in the works of our own hands and minds. Forgive us for the waste of our time and talents and gifts, and for our abuse of the earth, your creation, O God. Forgive us that so little of your love is passed through us to others, and that we have cared so little about the sufferings and injustices that they endure. Forgive us by your mercy, O God, for the sins held secret in our hearts, as we open them to you in silence... (silent confession)

CHORAL RESPONSE**“Lord, Have Mercy”****H. Gregory****WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE**

Officiant: Lay down your burdens; give up your sinful ways, and accept the warmth of God's love, for we have been forgiven, and in Christ are made new again. Look up with hope and live.

****HYMN****“We Would See Jesus”****#256**

**1. We would see Jesus; lo! his star is shining
above the stable while the angels sing;
There in a manger on the hay reclining;
haste, let us lay our gifts before the King.**

**2. We would see Jesus, Mary's son most holy,
light of the village life from day to day;
shining revealed through every task most lowly,
the Christ of God, the life, the truth, the way.**

3. We would see Jesus, on the mountain teaching,
with all the listening people gathered round;
while birds and flowers and sky above are preaching
the blessedness which simple trust has found.

4. We would see Jesus, in his work of healing,
at eventide before the sun was set;
divine and human, in his deep revealing
of God made flesh, in loving service met.

5. We would see Jesus, in the early morning,
still as of old he calleth, "Follow me!"
Let us arise, all meaner service scorning;
Lord, we are thine, we give ourselves to thee.

****PASSING THE PEACE**

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

People: **And also with you.**

- WE ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE WORD -

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Liturgist: The prophet Jeremiah proclaims the coming of a new covenant from God – a covenant of forgiveness and remembrance.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Here ends the reading.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 51:1-12

Resp. 2

#785

R  *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* 

Liturgist: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

**P: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

L: Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless in your judgment.

**P: Behold, I was born into iniquity,
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me. R**

L: Behold, You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L: Make me hear with joy and gladness;
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

**P: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities. R**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**P: Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**

L: Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**P: O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.**

L: For you have no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**P: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. R**

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

Liturgist: Christ is proclaimed by God as a High Priest through his suffering and death.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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**

+ John 12:20-33 +

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me

must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**“Out Of The Depths”
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

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: For you alone we wait;

*Response: **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.***

*Celebrant: Loving God, you taught your disciples love for one another—love which would manifest itself in selflessness and servanthood. Hear the prayer of your people for our world and all who dwell in it as we pray: For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.***

We lift to you the nations, that they may be rebuilt in justice and in peace, and especially this nation and its leaders. Hear our prayers for the nations.

*For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.***

We lift to you this earth, which you so lovingly created, that as stewards of your gifts we might thankfully use its resources and seek to renew and revitalize the environment for the good of all. Hear our prayers for your creation.

*For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.***

We pray for Tully and for cities and villages around us, that all might work together to strengthen and improve the lives of their citizens. Hear our prayers for the cities.

For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.**

We pray for the victims of violence, intolerance, xenophobia, injustice, racial bias, and disenfranchisement. You are a God who seeks to include, not exclude, who creates us in your image and stamps upon us the approval of a loving, caring, welcoming creator. Melt and remold our hearts to care for and stand with the hopeless, the helpless, the hurting of our world.

For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.**

We pray for your church—both here in this faith community and around the world—that this season of Lent might be a time of renewal in faith and mission on your behalf, and that together we may learn the path of servanthood toward all humanity. Hear our prayer for your church.

For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.**

We pray for ourselves and our own needs, and the needs of those around us, whose lives are closely linked with our own, especially those whom we have named aloud and those we now bring to you in the silence.

For you alone we wait; **Deliver us, O God of our salvation.**

To those who are sick and sorrowful, bring your healing and hope. To the grieving, bring your peace. And to the dying bring the joy of your promise to us of eternity with you.

Celebrant: These and all our prayers we offer you, trusting in your goodness and your strength, in the name and spirit of Jesus the 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: We bring our gifts to you, and offer them as symbols of sacrifice and service. We seek to share the story of suffering love that fulfills and conquers death. Bless the gifts we offer and all who give; use our wealth, our time, and our abilities for the good of all your people everywhere. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS -

****HYMN**

"Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone"

#424

1. Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?

No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

2. How happy are the saints above, who once went sorrowing here!

But now they taste unmingled love, and joy without a tear.

3. The consecrated cross I'll bear till death shall set me free;

and then go home my crown to wear, for there's a crown for me.

BLESSING

Celebrant: Whatever cross Christ has called you to carry:

walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God,

walk in peace, under the sheltering care of the angels,

walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, go with you both now and for ever.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Were You There?"

Joel Raney

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

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship

- Jeremiah speaks of a new covenant with God, characterized by knowledge of God's law, God's love and God's forgiveness. How easy or difficult is it to live into that covenant?
- How do you discern truth in your inward being?
- What are the qualities of wisdom that you desire?
- What does it mean to learn obedience through suffering?
- What does service to God through Jesus look like? In what ways do we have to die to self daily for the sake of the cross?