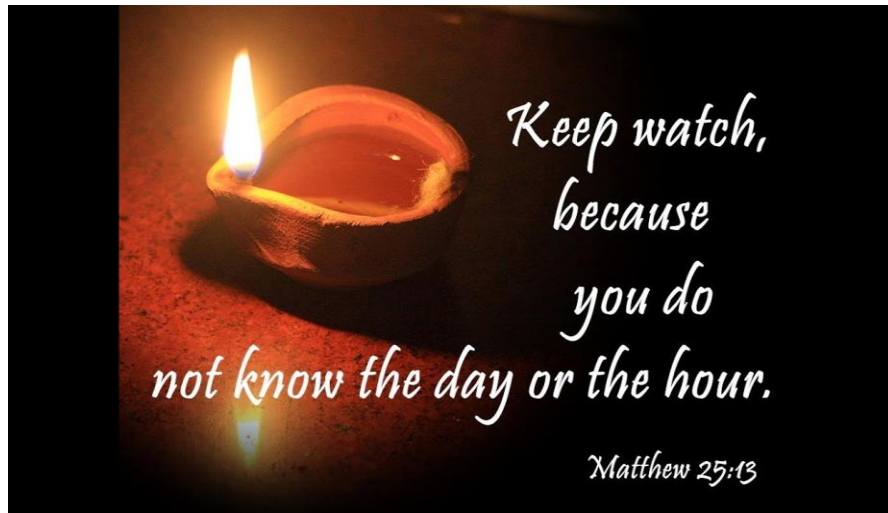


TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

NOVEMBER 12, 2023, 9:30 AM

THE REV. RICHARD G. REED



TWENTYFOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

— WE GATHER AS GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE —

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 here in person, and those live-streaming with us on ZOOM. We especially recognize our veterans on this Veteran's Day Weekend. Would those who are veterans please stand if you are able?

PRELUDE

"He Giveth More Grace"

Hubert Mitchel

GREETING

Grace to you and peace from God who is, and was, and is to come; and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of kings on earth. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Let us worship God!

1. This is holy ground, we're gathered on holy ground.
 For the Lord is present, and where God is is holy!
 This is holy ground, We're gathered on holy ground.
 For the Lord is present, and where God is is holy!

2. This is holy ground, we're gathered on holy ground.
 God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
 You our strength and stay, You ever our hope and way.
 By Your grace, O Christ, now make our lives more Holy!

MOMENT OF SILENT ONE-NESS

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

People: God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

L: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere,

P: That we may share God's love and life, and be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

L: The living Christ is with us.

P: Praise the Lord!

L: Together let us pray.

Most gracious and loving God, you fill our hearts with praise for renewed life in Christ Jesus. Fill our minds with meditations which are noble and true, that we may be strengthened in our union with Him, for we offer our prayers and our worship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN

"Rejoice The Lord Is King"

#715

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
 mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

2. Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

3. His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

**4. Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound,
rejoice!**

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

-WE ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE WORD-

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Liturgist: A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 78:1-4

#799

R ♪ We shall listen, Lord, to your teaching, and heed the words of your mouth. ♪

Liturgist: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

**People: I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

L: things that we have heard and known,
that our forebears have told us.

**P: We will not hide them from their children;
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, the might,
and wonders God has wrought. R**

SECOND LESSON

First Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church at
Thessalonica. Paul responds to questions about the coming of the Lord.**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the

sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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**

+ Matthew 25:1-13 +

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Let The Whole Creation Cry"

Jay Althouse

The Laura Currie Chancel Choir

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Bidding: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

Response: *hear us and help us, O God!*

Celebrant: *O God, may your spirit be our strength, your word be our guide, your love be our comfort, and your promises be our hope, as we pray: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!***

Liturgist:

Let us pray for the Church: for her clergy and lay leaders, especially for those of our Baptist and Methodist family, and those in our Iroquois Association of New York State Baptist Churches, that we may continue to offer faithful witness to God's abiding care for us and live always as those who are alive in Christ. And let us pray for her people, that we may live as citizens of your Kingdom first above any rule of our own making and seek the justice, peace, and equity of your rule and reign.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

For this parish family, that we who celebrate this day in joyful hope may be transformed in Christ as children of the resurrection. Make known to us your plans for ministry in this place that your grace and peace may be shared in Tully and beyond into the world.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

For all those who serve in the military, and for all veterans, that they may know God's presence in their hearts, and be blessed with health and well-being.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

For peace throughout the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, that those driven to violence and terrorism may find new paths to walk that will bring justice, peace, and good order to their world.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

For all who are in danger and need; the hungry, the homeless and the oppressed, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those whom we have named aloud and those who we now name in silence. We pray that God will bring comfort and strength to them, heal and restore them.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

For all the departed, that as children of the resurrection, they may rejoice now in the presence of the One who is the beginning and the end. And for those who grieve, that they may find deep wells of consolation from your Holy Spirit.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; **hear us and help us, O God!**

Celebrant: In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ our God, whose word to us is food indeed. Receive the prayers we offer you this day, and let your loving kindness be our comfort, for the sake of 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: God has prepared a rich feast for those who desire to receive it – a coming reign of justice and peace, a life of promise without fear, a world made new. We participate in that blessed life to come, even today with our tithes and offerings, enabling Christ's church to make a way in the world for the promises of God to be fulfilled. Let us bring forth our gifts and offer our lives anew to God.

****DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER**

**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: Here, O God, your children offer to you the substance of our lives and labors. We come humbly, recognizing that all that we are and all that we have belong to you; and we come boldly, recognizing that you alone have moved us to share of our substance for the sake of others. Receive and use these gifts and us for your great work of grace in the world. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS –

****CLOSING HYMN**

“Now Thank We All Our God

#102

**1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

BENEDICTION

Celebrant: Almighty God bless you and keep you, shed light on your path and give you comfort, strength, hope, and mercy. Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: AMEN! THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE

“I Must Tell Jesus”

Elisha Hoffman

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

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- The passage from Joshua reminds us that God is always faithful to the covenants made with his people and we are always in need of repentance and renewal. What promises have you made to God and how have you had to repent and renew them?
- What is the importance of the elders in telling their stories of faith? What do you want new members to know about this congregation's faith history?
- In what ways do you encourage others in the faith? How does our congregation provide encouragement?
- What do you do to practice patience? How are you prepared to share the Good News?