

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 4, 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

“When We All Get To Heaven”

T. Waldrop

GREETING

Celebrant: From different lives we come to worship God; from good weeks and bad weeks, bringing great times and painful memories, needing healing, needing peace, needing love and acceptance. With hope in our hearts, we come to worship God.

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: Come, let us use our voices to praise the Lord.

People: Our mouths will shout forth praise.

L: Let us use our minds to ponder the wondrous deeds of God.

P: We will call to mind God's mighty acts.

L: With all of our strength and being, let us worship the Lord of love.

P: We will worship from our depths. Our souls exult in God!

L: Let us pray:

As we worship this morning, O God, we pray that your Spirit will be our strength, your word will be our guide, your love will be our comfort, and your promises will be our hope, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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

Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint

and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 147:1-11

#859

R

♪ **Praise the Lord who reigns above: Alleluia!** ♪

Liturgist: Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
a song of praise is fitting.

**People: The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

L: The Lord heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

**P: The Lord determines the number of the stars,
and gives to all of them their names.**

L: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,
whose understanding is beyond measure.

**P: The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
but casts the wicked to the ground. R**

L: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

P: make melody upon the lyre to our God

L: who covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow upon the hills.

**P: The Lord gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.**

L: The Lord takes no delight in the might of a horse
nor pleasure in the strength of a runner,

**P: but the LORD takes pleasure in the faithful,
in those who hope in the Lord's steadfast love. R**

SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 9:16-23

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

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a wage, but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my wage? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it.

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 1:29-39 +

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions

hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**"Have You Not Known"
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: Hear our prayers, O Lord;

Response: heal us and help us.

*Celebrant: Center us now, O God, on your presence in this place among your people, as we lift up our hearts desires, our soul's deep needs, our hungers, fears and failures as we pray: Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.***

L: As we have often failed to be obedient to your will in our lives as individual disciples and as church, we pray that you will forgive us and enliven us to be and to do the gospel of Christ. Open us to your Spirit's urgings, and awaken us to live faithfully as your people in a changing, often hurting world.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.**

L: Let the rulers of the earth praise you and hear the words of your mouth, O Holy One, that they may look with their eyes, listen with their ears, comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed. Give them tongues to speak only truth and hearts to act with integrity.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.**

L: Look upon those who walk in the midst of trouble, violence, oppression, injustice, disease, and poverty, and protect them with your enduring love, never abandoning the work of your hands.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.**

L: Remember the people of this community, caring for the lowly and keeping us safe from all harm, that you may make good your purpose for us, filling us with the bounty of your blessing.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.**

L: We pray for those around us who need your care, and ask that you would make of us your instruments of healing, peace and redemption. We pray especially for those we have named to you this day, and others we lift to you in the silence of our hearts.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **heal us and help us.**

Celebrant: Reveal your presence with them and with us, God of life, that as people of renewed faith and vitality, we may be empowered to serve your world, and so give glory to you; for we offer our prayers and our lives in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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: The Apostle Paul instructs us to walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. So let us offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

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 all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-WE COMMUNE TOGETHER -

LITURGY OF COMMUNION – THE EUCHARIST

Responses on page 15 in the front of the hymnal.

You will be instructed when to come forward. Gluten free option available – ask at the altar.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Adults, youth, and children come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table. It is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Come, for all are welcome.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.

In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim
release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set a liberty
those who were oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when
you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

****HYMN OF COMMUNION "I Come With Joy" Vv. 1-3 #617**

**1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.**

**2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in
ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at
his heavenly banquet.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and
honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.

The body of Christ, the bread of life.
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

(Please allow the choir to come forward first. Then come forward take the bread and eat.
Then move to the cup, drink it, and put the empty in the basket.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*You have given yourself to us, Lord. Now we give ourselves for others.
Your love has made us a new people; As a people of love we will serve
you with joy. Your glory has filled our hearts. Help us to glorify you in all
things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

-WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS-

HYMN

"There Is A Balm In Gilead"

#375

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1. Sometimes I feel discouraged And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again. Refrain:**

**2. Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend;
And if you look for knowledge, He'll ne'er refuse to lend. Refrain:**

**3. If you cannot preach like Peter, If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus And say He died for all. 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

“There Is A Balm In Gilead”

Spiritual

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

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- What gives you strength, energy, and courage to keep going when you feel faint and weary?
- How does our community of faith engage in the healing of God? The proclamation of the Gospel? The lifting up of people?