

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 25, 2024, 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



SECOND 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

“Give Me Jesus”

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: When confidence in our way of life is shaken, to whom do we turn for comfort?

People: We look to friends, we cling to loved ones, we grope for answers in familiar, sacred places.

L: How shall we find strength to recover? Where do we find heart and hope to go on?

P: Our hope is in God alone, our Savior, the Shepherd of our Souls, our sheltering Fortress.

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers, 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 let us pray:

P: For the poverty of our/my worship, our/my unbelief and hesitating witness, our/my blindness to what you would have us/me to be and to do, for imagining ourselves/myself to be the center of the world, and for seeking security in the works of our/my own hands and minds, for the waste of your gifts, and for letting so little of your love pass through us/me to others by relieving the sufferings and injustices that they endure, Lord, have mercy. (silent confession)

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

"The God Of Abraham Praise" Vv. 1,2,4 #116

**1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**

**2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.**

**4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship 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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15,16

Liturgist: God informs Abraham that he will become the ancestor of a multitude of nations, and Sarah will be blessed and give rise to nations.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Here ends the reading.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 22:25-31

Resp. 2

#752

R  ***All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.*** 

Liturgist: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

People: my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.

L: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

**P: those who seek the Lord shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;

**P: and all the families of the nations
shall worship before the Lord.**

L: For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.

P: All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord;

L: all who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord,
and I shall live for God.

P: Posterity shall serve the Lord;

L: each generation shall tell of the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

P: Surely the Lord has done it. R

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:13-25

Liturgist: The Apostle Paul reminds the church at Rome of the promise God made to Abraham and informs them the same promise is for them and us as well.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which

was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Here ends the reading.

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 8:31-38 +

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**"Lord Of The Dance"
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

L. Fleming

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

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

#894

Bidding: O God we place our trust in you;

Response: **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

*Celebrant: Almighty and All-Merciful God, you have taught us not to be afraid and you have promised to defend your people and to bring us into our inheritance: Harken to our voice when we call; have mercy on us and answer us, as we pray: O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.***

L: We live in a world where leaders misuse power, kill today's prophets, and stone those sent from God: Gather your children together, O Gracious One, from across the world as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, that all may see you and bless your holy name.

O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

L: Your Spirit is strong with those who work in the presence of danger, conflict and opposition, and your healing grace is with those who suffer: Look upon the whole world, O Loving One, and uphold with your power all who need the comfort of your compassion.

O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

L: You have given us a good land to possess, O Generous One, and you have surrounded us with your descendants more numerous than the stars of heaven: Bless our community and all of our neighbors, that we may know you and stand firm in your goodness.

O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

L: The earth is yours, O Creator, and all that dwell therein: grant that we would have a renewed passion to care for your earth, which is in grave danger, that those who come after us may know and enjoy the same beauty as we enjoy now.

O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

L: Your salvation comes to those in need: Hear our intercession for all for whom we pray, especially those whom we have named aloud and those we bring to you now in the silence. [moment of silent prayer]

Your resurrection power brings hope to the living and new life to the dead:
Welcome those who have passed from this life into your eternal presence.

L: O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Your mysterious and powerful presence is with us, O Holy One; even in deep and terrifying darkness, your covenant promise is renewed: Let your Spirit be with your children in all times of trial, that our hearts may rest in you and not be afraid, 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: 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, God of the journey; 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**

“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.**

- WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS -

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

**“Nobody Knows The Trouble I’ve Seen/Angels
Watching Over Me”**

M. Hayes

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

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship

- *Even though they were of a great age, God made promises to Abraham and Sarah and they believed – though not always at first. What are promises of God that you may find hard to believe? That you have come to trust with time and faith?*
- *How have you told the story of God's faithfulness and love to your children and grandchildren? How are they carrying on the faith with their children and grandchildren?*
- *What are the crosses that you have to bear? Is it hard to imagine Jesus helping you bear those crosses?*