

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 3, 2024, 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



THIRD 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

“Lenten Meditation”

G. Davidson

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: Our Lenten journey continues. Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

People: But God has been our friend and our guide. We have no cause to be alarmed. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

L: Today we rejoice in God's faithful love, and together ask for strength and signs of hope and life.

P: And again we are drawn together to celebrate the life that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Officiant: 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.

Together let us pray:

God, our Father, we confess to you that we like the path of life to be easy, comfortable, untroubled; we like problems to melt away, hardships to be smoothed over, stones to turn into bread for us; we do not want the hard and faithful way that Jesus takes. By your grace which kept him secure in your love during those forty desert days, arm us against temptation, alert us to corruption, and forgive us our sins. Teach us to walk in the paths of Jesus, for his sake. (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

"Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation"

#559

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy faithful loving-kindness hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.

3. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee forever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

4. Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.

****PASSING THE PEACE**

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

People: And also with you.

- WE ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE WORD -

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

Liturgist: God gives the Ten Commandments.

Then God spoke all these words,

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Here ends the reading.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 19

Resp. 1

#750

R *♪ Hear the commandments of life; give ear, and learn wisdom. ♪*

Liturgist: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

L: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**P: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

L: In them God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course like a strong man.

**P: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat. R**

L: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

P: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

L: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

P: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

L: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

P: the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

L: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

P: sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. R

L: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**P: But who can understand one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

L: Also keep your servant from the insolent;
let them not have dominion over me!

**P: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. R**

THE SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 1:18-25

Liturgist: The Apostle Paul speaks to the church at Corinth of the foolishness of the Cross and the wisdom of God.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2:13-22 +**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON**The Rev. Richard G. Reed****CHORAL ANTHEM****"Remember Me"****Robert Lau****Laura Currie Chancel Choir****- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -****SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Bidding: O God we place our trust in you;

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

*Celebrant: Father God you have promised bread that satisfies to those who hunger and living water to all thirst. Hear us and draw near to us who make our needs, our hopes, and our desires known as we pray: O God we place our trust in you; **Hear us and save us, O Lord.***

Liturgist: Send your Spirit upon us that we might be transformed. Make our truest desires be to live in closer communion with Christ and his people. Bless the leaders of this congregation and of your universal Church that your love and grace may be proclaimed in word and deed.

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

L: Loving God, you are our hope. We have often lived as though you were so distant, so uninvolved with us, and so aloof. Yet in Christ you have shown us just how near to us you are—walking by our sides, risking all to be near to us—so much that you would come to be our servant, our Savior and our friend.

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

L: Hear our prayers for those for whom we should take such risks, as we lift to you the yearnings of our hearts for your creation and its peoples. Help us as stewards of your many gifts to care more diligently for the brokenness of your world. May our lives honor you by caring for the earth and all of your creatures. May we be renewed and reconciled to live in peace with all people.

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

L: Many and great are the needs of those around us, Lord. Help us to better remember the poor, the homeless, the needy of our world, by serving those who live nearby. Teach us the meaning of prayer for the lost, the lonely and the grieving through the consolation of our encounters with them in everyday life. Empower us to heal the hurting, the sick and the dying by the touch and the love of Jesus who lives in us.

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

L: We especially pray for those whom we have named aloud and those we now bring before you in the silence. (Pause for a moment of silent prayer)

Celebrant: Raise up your people again to lives of deeper prayer through more ready service, that this community of faith might be more strongly joined with Christ our Lord. 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

-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,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.
When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.

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.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

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.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in
him, in the unity of the holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty
Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, as our Lord has taught us, we are bold 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.”**

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

****SONG OF COMMUNION**

“May We Remember”

Kerr-Whitt

**As we eat this bread, O Christ, may we remember.
As we drink this cup may we now be renewed
In the love and in the hope of Your life poured out for us!
May we remember, Lord! May we remember!**

Celebrant: 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. Take them in remembrance
that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with
thanksgiving.*

(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 SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS -

****HYMN**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

#269

**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 victory 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 passion tide,
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.**

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

L. Smith

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

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship

- *How do you keep the Ten Commandments? Do you think about them and what they mean or do you keep them subconsciously? Do they seem to you to be freeing or a burden?*
- *What does it mean that the cross is foolishness?*
- *How do you use the season of Lent for your spiritual life?*