

# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 11, 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

**“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”**

## GREETING

*Celebrant: Stand upon a mountain peak; hear the gravid stillness speak; watch the golden dawn awake; think of journeys love may take; pause to breathe the misty air; see God's glory dwelling there. -Helen Wiltshire*

## CENTERING SONG

**“Holy Ground”**

**Christopher Beatty**

**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!

Repeat verse 1.

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: On mountaintops and in deep valleys,

**People: Jesus is the light of the world.**

L: On busy city streets and on quiet country lanes,

**P: Jesus is the light of the world.**

L: At home, at work, at play, and at rest,

**P: Jesus is the light of the world. May we see one another in the light of Christ.**

L: Let us pray.

**God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving. Before the brightness of your presence, the angels veil their faces and shout Alleluia! With lowly reverence and adoring love, we acclaim your glory and sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Help us to see him more clearly as we gather in his name, and through him to find our way to living faithfully as your children. Amen.**

### \*\*HYMN

#### "Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Sky"

#173

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near, Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return, Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till Thou inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

### 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**

### **Second Kings 2:1-12**

**A reading from the book of Second Kings. The prophet, Elijah, passes his mantle on to his protégée, Elisha, and a chariot sweeps Elijah away into heaven.**

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Here ends the reading.

### **PSALTER**

### **Psalm 50:1-6**

**#783**

**R** *♪ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory over all the earth be found. ♪*

Liturgist: The mighty one, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.**

L: Our God comes and does not keep silence,  
before him is a devouring fire,  
round about whom is a mighty storm.

**P: God calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that the people may be judged:**

L: "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**P: The heavens declare God's righteousness,  
for God alone is judge.     **R****

## **SECOND LESSON**

## **Second Corinthians 4:3-6**

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

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

**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 9:2-9 +**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us

set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Richard G. Reed**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**“Ride The Chariot”**

**Moses Hogan**

**Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

**- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -**

**SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (using “sins”)**

**#894**

Bidding: Mighty King, lover of justice;

**Response: Hear our cries and answer.**

*Celebrant: Transforming God, you have given us a vision of your glory in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hear us as we bring to you our own lives to be transformed by you through your redeeming presence in the midst of this community, as we pray: Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.***

Leader: We can so easily become dull to the wonder of your glory, O God. We pray that we would be made salt and light, awakening all of those who come near to us with your Spirit which dwells within us.

Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.**

Leader: Bless the leaders of this and every nation, that they may seek justice, equity, and peace. Make them to do right, in lives of integrity and service, that you may be glorified in all things.

Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.**

Leader: Open us to the needs of those who pass our way. Help us to serve you by serving them in the spirit of your Son, who showed us the way to life in its fullness.

Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.**

Leader: Give us grace to honor Jesus' name in the life which we build together here. To those who hunger, make of us bread; to those who lack shelter, make us to be a home; for those who are lost and lonely, make of us the peace and joy of Christ to them.

Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.**

Leader: May we bring hope and comfort to those whose lives are growing dim. Hear our prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with our own, whom we have named aloud and who we now name in silence. [silence is kept]

Mighty King, lover of justice; **Hear our cries and answer.**

*Celebrant: Lead us, Lord, in your righteousness; make your way plain before our faces; for it is you, alone, O God, who make us to dwell in safety. As we hear your word, speak to us once again. Send us forth in your Spirit, we pray, to rejoice in every moment of our lives, for we offer these and all our prayers through Jesus 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 wonderful works of God surround us. How will we show our gratitude? The generosity of God exceeds all our limits. How will our manner of life reflect the abundance of God's mercy? Surely our offerings are one measure of our response. Let us share the fruits of our lives and our labors with God who gives us all things.*

**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: Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **-WE PREPARE FOR LENT -**

### **PUTTING AWAY OUR ALLELUIAS**

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified.

**SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA.**

Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross.

**SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA.**

Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me."

**SOMETIMES WE MUST LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA.**

At Easter we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing "Alleluia! Christ is risen."

**IN GOD'S TIME, WE WILL FIND OUR ALLELUIA!**

For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia."

**SOMETIMES WE LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA.**

Together, let us pray:

**Lord Jesus, it is our joy to sing and say "Alleluia" as response to your conquering sin and death. Now, during the days of Lent we say farewell to "Alleluia" so that we may take it up anew on Easter. Amen.**

## HYMN MEDITATION

### “Alleluia, Song Of Gladness”

(tune: Lauda Anima, text: J.M. Neale, #66)

**1. Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;  
alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;  
in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.**

**2 Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;  
alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;  
here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.**

**3 Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;  
alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;  
for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.**

**4 In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,  
at the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;  
there to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.**

**- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -**

## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*Officiant: Go forth from this mountaintop of worship, feet firm on the ground, eyes cast toward the heavens, filled with God's glory, ready to serve. And the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Moses and Elijah, and of Mary and Joseph go with you and strengthen you in the faith, through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**P: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### “Higher Ground”

M. Hayes

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

### Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- Can you think of modern day examples of the type of relationship between Elijah and Elisha? What lessons do we learn from their experience as prophets of God?
- How does today's Psalm help you understand God's glory?
- What are the gods of this world that blind us to the glory of God?
- The disciples wanted to set up memorials to Moses, Elijah and Jesus on the mountain top, but it doesn't appear that God wanted that. Why do you think that was a bad idea?
- What are some ways we might show God's glory and share the Light of Christ during Lent?