

### **Prelude: A Medley of Spirituals**

*Deny Yourself:* Repentance means we turn away from the ways of the world to learn Jesus' Kingdom Ways. IN other words, we deny our answers to ask Jesus his answers.

*Take Up Your Cross:* Like Jesus lifted high on His Cross, we pray, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they are doing." The Way of the World does not know the Way of Mercy.

### **Lighting the Candles**

#### **Welcome**

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, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one, every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. 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.**

### **Special Music: Elijah Rock**

#### **Prayers of Self-Denial**

Lord of Heaven and Earth, we want to "come after" you. Our teachers have taught us their ways. In turn, we have taught our teachers' ways to others. Not many of us have rose to the heights of "heroes." Some of us have become leader-teachers. Thank you for our neighbor—teachers, leaders, and heroes.

Open our minds with reason and logic. Reflecting our teachers' knowledge reveals our teachers to the world, not Jesus. Open our hearts with hunger and thirst for righteousness. Reflecting our leaders image revels our leaders to the world, not Jesus. Open the eyes and ears of our souls with mercy, grace, and love. Equip us to love our teachers, leaders, and heroes with Jesus' mercy. Unite us in Grace greater than all Sin. Restore us to be Love as God is Love.

Through Jesus, you reveal how denying the best and worst the world has to offer frees us to be the people of Peace, Patience, Kindness, and Hope who Love as Jesus Loves. AMEN

### **Reading the Word: Matthew 5**

<sup>21</sup> You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, "Ra'-ca," is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer our gift.

<sup>25</sup> Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

### **Special Music: Meditative Music**

### **The Message**

### **Holy Communion**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Special Music: Mary Don't You Weep**

**Tithes and Offerings of the Redeemed**

**Postlude**

**Food for Thought: Rest Stops**

Prayer is a rest stop. Prayer seldom requires words. Prayer requires listening to hear the still small voice of God.

Fasting teaches us how things like food, material things, and people's opinions control our lives.

Almsgiving teaches us to share resources, not to be seen and praised by those who receive. It teaches us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

Reading Scripture is to hear God's voice instead of proving our knowledge right.

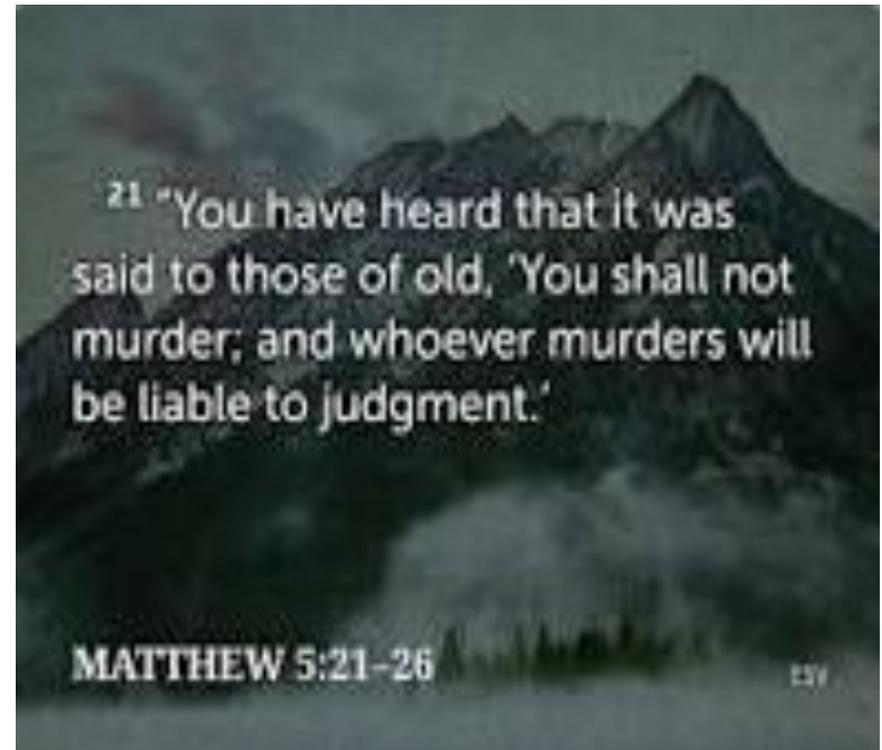
Holy Communion turns the altar into God's table where we gather to satisfy our hunger and thirst for righteousness with mercy, grace, and love.

Practice makes us Holy as God is Holy.

**THE TRINITY COMPANION**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

**SANCTUARY WORSHIP**



**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
203 E. 1ST ST., SOUTH  
BIG STONE GAP, VA 24219**

**EARLY SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:00 AM  
LATE SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:00 AM  
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