

### **Prelude: “Themes from Spring” (Four Seasons)—Antonio Vivaldi**

Prepare to Experience God as revealed through Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection.

### **Lighting the Candles**

Suffering is an experience of darkness. Jesus suffered the darkness of all our sin. Mercy is God’s Light which shines in the darkness of suffering and death.

### **Special Music: It Is Well With My Soul**

#### **Welcome**

<sup>9</sup> Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

#### **Reading of Scripture: Matthew 7: 12—20**

<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

#### **The Narrow and Wide Gates**

<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

#### **True and False Prophets**

<sup>15</sup> Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Leviticus 19: <sup>18</sup> “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

### **Meditation: “Londonderry Air”**

Lord, we pray not for tranquility, nor that our tribulations cease; we pray for Thy Spirit and Thy Love, that Thou grant us strength and grace to overcome adversity through Jesus Christ. Amen. (UMH 531)

### **Message: Receive the Good Gifts**

*Food for Thought and Debate: What is your focus? Do you focus on how to fulfill the Law? Do you debate which of the 613 Laws of Torah reveal the greatest sin? Do you focus on right choices as the way to change behavior?*

*<sup>2)</sup> Do our right answers exceed those of the Teachers of the Law and Pharisees? Matthew 5: 17-20 . Have you/I/we even reached the place in life that we are debating which of the 613 Laws fulfills the entire Covenant? Isn’t this Jesus’ stated purpose?*

### **Special Music: He Was Despised**

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

### **Tithes and Offerings**

### **Postlude**

## ***Announcements***

- Trinity has returned to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am and one in-person worship service at 11 am. Covid-19 protocols will remain in effect. Facebook Live virtual worship and Worship at Home will continue.
- On Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 6 pm, you are invited to participate in an experience of scripture wherein Jesus prepares to fulfill the Old Covenant.
- The Easter Cross will be adorned with fresh flowers soon. If you would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund in honor/ memory of someone for the purpose of buying fresh flowers for the outdoor Easter cross, the money will need to be turned in by March 31st. If a check is sent, please make it payable to TUMC with Flower Fund and your loved one in the memo line.

**THE TRINITY COMPANION**

**MARCH 21, 2021**

**SANCTUARY WORSHIP**



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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 10:00 AM  
SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:00 AM  
PASTOR—REV. ROBERT BURLINGHAM  
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