

**Prelude:** (Duet of Organ and Piano) Jordan's Stormy Banks

### **Entrance of the Light of Christ**

**Special Music:** Scenes from the Finale of the 3rd Symphony by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

### **Welcome**

Bowing before Jesus Christ displays faith. By faith, the humble confess the power of Jesus Christ. The power of His name is displayed as He suffers, dies, and rises again. To those who caused his suffering, He offers mercy. To those who receive mercy, He promises, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." Those who enter paradise with him proclaim the message of Faith with Him, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit."

See the changes to take place in the Christian's Life? Where we encounter suffering and death, we see Christ and Him resurrected.

### **Confession**

Acts of Humility: Tell the Lord about your suffering. Get specific. A friend, family member, neighbor, or enemy is likely involved. Name these folks. But humbly tell the Lord what you think about your present suffering. Humbly tell the Lord how you feel about our present suffering. Humbly give him your heart and mind. Notice that feelings and thoughts are spirits that cannot be touched or held like physical things.

Acts of Mercy: Jesus suffered. He felt forsaken. Yet, He gave the people creating his suffering Mercy. Forgiveness changes our focus from bondage to freedom. Through your Acts of Humility, you gave the Lord the suffering in your heart and mind. You committed the spirit of your heart and mind to God. Humility and Mercy are the building blocks of faith. Faith has little to do with what we know. Faith is WHO we trust to guide is in the Way to Truth that celebrates Life.

Acts of Thanksgiving: Give thanks that Jesus has empathy and compassion for you. Your suffering is like His suffering. Faith trusts Jesus with out thoughts and feelings about suffering. By faith, we receive into our hearts and minds his mercy. Give thanks for the people involved in your suffering. Do this in remembrance of Christ on the Cross until you experience the change. When suffering dies it rises to new life. The new life is Peace. See the change that is in you.

Acts of Witness: Find a person of Peace with whom to journey. Spend time each week telling the Person of Peace the Good News of Jesus Christ your

experienced. Share the details of your Acts of Humility. Share the change of spirit that took place in your heart and mind once you received Christ's Mercy. Then, invite the Person of Peace to share her or his Good News. The practice of Faith changes us. We change how we experience suffering. We change how we see ourselves. We change how we see our neighbor.

### **Meditation**

How would Trinity United Methodist Church change if everyone in attendance practiced the above confession?

**Special Music:** (Duet of voice –Calli/Rick) Where No One Stands Alone

### **Affirmation of Faith: Ephesians 6**

How does scripture describe my belief changing in to Faith in Christ?

**"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."** (Don't we believe that Jesus defeated the devil? What change takes place when I stand against the devil?)

**<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

(Why, then, do I believe I am in a constant battle with people. I see this battle taking place all around me. Look at the battle in politics, religion, and families. Is scripture saying the Devil pit us against one another? I have questions and doubts. I need proof!

**The Devil tempts us the same way he tempted Jesus. He tempted Jesus to doubt that God provides His physical needs. If you are Messiah, turn these stones into bread. He tempted Jesus to prove he is the Messiah spoken of in Scripture. Faith has nothing to prove. Faith trusts in the Lord, not self, neighbor, institutions, or nations...He tempted Jesus with earthly power by amassing physical things. Evil worships creation. Faith trusts the Lord.** (Scripture tells us the Devil's ways. What does it say about Jesus' ways?)

**<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you will have done everything, to stand.**

(Stand on faith in Christ. Where we encounter suffering, we hear Jesus cry, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." Where we encounter death of relationships, institutions, powers, and principalities; we hear Jesus' promise, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." Where we encounter the devil's temptations, we are led by the same Spirit that taught

Jesus to humbly say, “Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit.”)

**Are you suggesting I can trust God with both good and evil?**

Yes, sing with me. “Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousands beside..

Great is Thy Faithfulness! Great is Thy Faithfulness! Morning my morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

**So faith is all about trusting God with the good and evil I see.**

Faith. Trust. Mercy. All bear “pardon for sin.”

Faith trusts Jesus’ Peace

Faith trusts that the Fruit of Jesus’ Peace changes every curse into a blessing.

**Hear the Word: II Timothy**

**4** In the presence of God and of Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead, and in the view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**Homily: Peace Tends the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**

**Tithes and Offering**

**Postlude**

# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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