
WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude Lighting the Candles



Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—

Tell us, where in the Law does Moses speak of Jesus, the Messiah?

**The
Light
of Truth**

Listen to Deuteronomy 18; “The nations you will be tempted to follow practice divination, sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God says:”

Are we to dispossess nations?

Listen to what the Lord says: “15 The Lord your God says: ‘Do not have a prophet or diviner or sorcerer or diviner among you, from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must not listen to them.’”

Who did God raise up?

Hear the Good News: Jesus suffered. Jesus Died.

We suffer. We die. How can this be Good News?

Listen to what the Lord says, 16 For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” (Exodus 20: 18-19)



The Light of Truth enters the heart-soul-mind through prayer, mediation, and fasting. Let Jesus IN!

“Sud accumsan libero pretium pharetra quis. Nunc elit lorem magna vitae.”

-DIAM NOBIS

17 The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. 19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.”

46 (His name is) Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

”Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”

“Come and see Jesus who suffered, died, and rose again.

Hymn of Preparation

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

It is you, Lord
Who came to save
The heart and soul
Of every man
It is you Lord
Who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength,
With thine own hand.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and Holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

Prayer of Humility

Lord, the sanctuary of Trinity UMC comes to Life the moment we enter.
We enter anticipating Jesus' invitation. We are invited to come and see Jesus.
How may we come and see Jesus? Our hearts are distracted with suffering!
How may we come and see Jesus? Our minds are busy discerning right and wrong!
How may we come and see Jesus? Our souls are cast down. There are moments that life is the pits!

The Lord is Peace, give him all your heart!

The Lord is Merciful, give him all your mind!
The Lord descended to the pit, give him all your soul.

Thanksgiving changes the heart, mind, and soul! Giving thanks in all things makes us a living sanctuary for God!

The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith: From the Liturgy of Baptism!!!

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into the PIT; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Reading of the Prophet Micah 4:

Many nations will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3

He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

4

Everyone will sit under their own vine

and under their own fig tree,

and no one will make them afraid,

for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

5

All the nations may walk

in the name of their gods,

but we will walk in the name of the Lord

our God for ever and ever.

Reading of the Gospel of John

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. **45** Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

**The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: He Touched Me

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole.

Message: Change the Tree You Sit Beneath

Phillip told Nathaniel he found Messiah. He found the very Messiah promised in Deuteronomy 18. Like Moses, people will listen to Messiah when afraid of God. Like Moses, God will put His word in Messiah's mouth. Like Moses, Messiah only speaks what God says, and does what God is doing in heaven. Unlike Moses, Messiah does not judge. Those who come and see Messiah receive mercy, grace, and love. Through His mighty, humble acts, Messiah does God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

The first time Nathaniel met Jesus he received mercy! Jesus said, Look, here is an Israelite in who there is no deceit. A deceitful person hides behind shame, guilt, and blame. Nathaniel asks Jesus, "Where did you get to know me? Remember Nathaniel had never seen Jesus! Jesus said, I saw you while you were still sitting under the fig tree.

Remember the Fig Tree! Yep, the very one Adam and Eve hid behind when they heard God walking in the garden. Remember what Adam and Eve did before they came out of hiding? They took the leaves of the Fig Tree and covered their physical nakedness. As if a Fig Leaf stopped God from seeing their hearts, souls, and minds.

God entered the Garden asking questions!

Where are you? God knew Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God's question, Where are you, is an invitation to Grace. Grace is being in God's Presence. God was with them. They were in fear of judgment and death.

Who told you you were naked? Who told us that covering our physical bodies would blind God from seeing our spiritual heart, soul, and mind. Have you notice that even wearing your Sunday best you suffer shame, guilt, and blame?

What have you done? Eve blamed the serpent. The truthful answer is really simple. God, I eat the fruit of knowledge of Good and Evil every day. The truth is that the fruit is judgement, not an apple.

Sin is really simple to understand. Look at Genesis 1.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

God looks at creation and says it is all very good. We however don't see things God's WAY! We judge everything to be either Good or Evil.

Friends we face a Physical Crisis! Yep the pandemic, racism, sexism, declining church attendance rises out of our Physical Crisis. A physical body without God's Spirit is blind, deaf, and dumb!

The moment we eat the. Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge we die. Have physical ears, we cannot hear God's voice. Having physical eyes, we cannot see that Jesus meets our judgment with mercy. Having physical hearts and minds, we cannot imagine Peace on Earth.

And yet, Jesus saw Nathaniel sitting beneath the fig tree. Nathaniel was wearing a robe and a cloak. But Nathaniel wasn't Klingon. He sat beneath the Fig Tree knowing good and well that no amount of shame, guilt or Blame could cloak his heart-soul-mind from God.

Let Culture Be: It lives on a steady diet of judgment, the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil.

Let Culture Be. Bare your heart-soul-mind to God. It is the way to. Let Judgement Go.

Let Culture Be. Let Judgement Go. Let Jesus IN. The Change is extraordinary. This World of shame, guilt, and blame becomes the place we are sent to offer Jesus' Mercy. This World of cruel judgement becomes the place we are sent to offer Jesus' Grace. This world of greedy, power brokers becomes a place. To offer Jesus' love.

Ask Jesus how He knows you! Don't be shocked to find yourself sitting beneath the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. He will change that tree into a cross. Come next Sunday, and see!

Tithes and Offerings

Our tithes and offerings are physical and spiritual. The physical care for physical needs. The spiritual tithes and offerings offer mercy, grace, and unconditional love to those who enter. Or presence bearing shame, guilt, and blame. We face a physical crisis. The body cannot live on physical things alone. When you give physical things give thanks that you have made space in your spirit to receive the depth of God's love.

You may give financial gifts through your local bank via auto draft. A secure dropbox is in the alley between the Church Building and the Toney's Home. Mail it to Trinity UMC, 203 E 1st St S, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219. At the close of the service we are dismissed by rows. Maintaining Social Distancing you may place it in the Offering Plate on the Lord's Table.

Benediction

When the Holy Spirit shows you you are sitting beneath the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil eating the fruit of temptation, Rejoice and give thanks. God has seen your fear and answered your need for a deliverer like Moses. God has raised up Messiah, out of sin and death, to walk with you and talk with you. Do not run, hide, or delay the Holy Spirit leads you to let the tempting Tree of Knowledge. Let it be and He will deliver you to the Cross. There we learn to Let Go. Amen