



SERVICE OF PRAYER

February 17, 2021

**Noon in Trinity Chapel
7:30 p.m. in Main Sanctuary**

**Trinity Chapel
Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
15 West Church Street
www.erucc.org • 301-662-2762**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP


Come, you who are toiling, you who are bound-up;
Come, Liberating God, hear our cries for mercy!
Come, you who are lost, you who are hopeless;
Come, Redeeming Christ, turn us to your light!
Come, you who are angry, you who are hurting;
Come, Cleansing Spirit, enter in to our hearts!
Come, for confession, for forgiveness, for restoration!
Come, O Holy One, free us, heal us, bless us!

*HYMN *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

George Herbert, 1633; alt.

John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:11

Unison



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can



breath; Such a truth as ends all strife;
feast; Such a feast as mends in length;
move; Such a love as none can part;



such a life as conquers death.
such a strength as makes a guest.
such a heart as joys in love.

A CALL TO A HOLY LENT

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 58:1-12*

CONFESSION – *based on Psalm 51:1-17*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

You know my transgressions, Righteous God, and so do I.

As your people, we have not been as faithful as we could be.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

We pass judgment on others;

And we forget that judgment is your job, not ours.

Please... Please do not cast me away from you;

Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Wipe away my wrongdoings, God of Mercy;

Hide your face from my transgressions, God of Love.

Please...Please... Create in me a clean heart.

Put a new and right spirit within me.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Sustain in me a willing spirit;

And restore to me the joy of your salvation.

Please...

Please...

You desire truth in my inward being;

Therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

Let me sing aloud of your deliverance!

Please...

Please...

Our sacrifices will not appease you

It is our genuine selves that you desire.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Deliver me from bloodshed, God of my salvation,

And my whole self will declare your praise!

Have mercy on me, O God,

According to your steadfast love.

Then I will become an example for faithfulness;

**And I will help others return to your ways.
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

When we cry for help, God will respond, "Here I am."
The sincerity of our confession is more pleasing to God
than all our boasting of accomplishments.
Through our Guide, our Nourishment, our Strength,
we can repent of our wrongdoing and rebuild our relationships,
and the light of God's unfailing love will be magnified in us.

ANTHEM *Create in Me*

*- M. Larkin
ERUCC Singers*

SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21*

REFLECTION

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

You invite us to this table, Holy One:
out of our places of testing,
in our wonderings of the possibility of rebirth,
for the sake of our yearnings
for life-giving waters and bread enough for all,
into new ways and hopes of seeing.
So gathered, may we open ourselves to you.
We give you thanks, O God,
for your steady presence all through our journeys.
Whether in wilderness or community,
whether in word or sacrament,
you come to us:
seeking our wholeness,
binding our wounds,
challenging our presumptions,
restoring our life.
And so we join the song of witnesses long past and yet to come:
**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God**

Hosanna in the highest!

Our praise flows from and toward
the mystery of your grace.

Such mystery marks this table before us,
where disciples of old gathered on the eve of betrayal,
and Jesus broke bread and shared the cup.

The gifts of bread and wine were offered to all,
even to the ones who betrayed and denied,
even to the ones who fled into the night,
even to them – so that this table might also be opened, even to us. So come,
Holy One, in grace and peace,
in bread and fruit of the vine,
in faith that embraces the mystery of your presence,
in spirits turned now to Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

A BLESSING

God, you called to the chaos and it became order and the universe and
everything that exists sprang into life.

In Christ you call us through the water in baptism.

On our journey through Lent from life to death to life once more, travel with us,
God.

Mark us with the ash of the earth; life become death to nurture life again.

As we fast, make us hungry for a world where no one goes without.

When we give, may we give for the peace of the earth.

And may we always and everywhere pray with humble and grateful hearts.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus who goes before us forever loving as you
love. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *More Love to You, O Christ*

see last page

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes: See! Now is the Acceptable Time, Part I: Ash Wednesday Service, was written by Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott, Pastor of Malletts Bay Congregational Church UCC, Colchester, VT.

More Love to You, O Christ

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Elizabeth P. Prentiss, c. 1856; alt.

1 More love to you, O Christ, more love to you! Hear now the
2 Once earth-ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; Now you a -
3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per your praise; This be the

Refrain
prayer I make faith to re - new.
lone I seek, give what is best: In all I say and do,
part - ing cry my heart shall raise:

more love, O Christ, to you, more love to you, more love to you!

MID- WEEK LENTEN SERVICES - Noon – 12:30

Wednesdays February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84425384958?pwd=eml4VFfd6Szh0R1Nvc3VReHlyVVUyZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 2538 4958

Passcode: 103720

Can You Drink the Cup?

Henri Nouwen begins his deeply personal book, *Can You Drink the Cup*, with the story of his early vocation to the priesthood and his ordination in 1957, at which time his uncle, a priest, gave to Henri the gold chalice that he had used for many years. In his later years, while living and working at the L'Arche Daybreak Community, Henri reflects on Jesus' question to James and John: "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" The cup becomes a metaphor for life, and the question for all of us becomes "Can we hold the cup of life in our hands? Can we lift it up for others to see and can we drink it to the full?"

February 24	Holding the Cup: The Cup of Sorrow
March 3	Holding the Cup: The Cup of Joy
March 10	Lifting the Cup: The Cup of Blessings
March 17	Lifting the Cup: The Cup of Blessings pt. 2
March 24	Drinking the Cup: The Cup of Salvation
March 31	Can You Drink the Cup?