



Mysterious

Encounter

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



**F**or Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

**W**e have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

**W**e ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

*Donate online by scanning this code:*

*Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.*



Thank you.



**Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church**

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# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

10:30 a.m.

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

People of faith, where shall we look for God?

Do we look to the heavens?

Do we look to highest mountains?

Do we look into the eye of a storm?

Do we look into the heart of the desert?

Where shall we look for God?

People of God, look around,

God is with us.

Open your eyes and let it be known –

where you have seen the God of creation,

where the Body of Christ is at work,

where the Spirit is living and moving.

*(Pause for silence as we reflect for a moment on where we “see” God. )*

#### \*Opening Prayer

**God who creates, we have seen you in your good creation. God who saves, we have seen you at work in the world. God who renews, we have seen your restoring love touching the hearts of the people of the earth. We are thankful. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

# 276

*See back of bulletin*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

**God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us.**

**We ask your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow in your way and love all your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Thought For the Day**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**The Scripture**

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service**

**Anthem *Grace Upon Grace***

*- M. McDonald  
ERUCC Singers*

**\*Closing Hymn *As Moses Raised the Serpent***

*# 605  
See back of bulletin*

**\* Benediction**

Isaiah was resolute when asked, "Whom shall I send?"

"Send me" was his clear reply.

**We know we are sent,  
we see what we should do,  
and so with the strong love of God  
and ready friendship of community we go,**

**resolved to do the good we can.**

Go in peace. **Amen.**

**\*Postlude**



**WELCOME**

We welcome the Rev. John Shillingburg as our preacher this morning. John and his wife Rebecca, also an ordained UCC minister, are members of ERUCC but are currently serving as co pastors for St. John's UCC in Sabillasville, MD. The Shillingburgs, both second career ministers, are this year celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordinations. They started seminary in 2007 after John took early retirement. When they started seminary, they were not sure where it would lead, but they were absolutely sure that they would never co-pastor a church together. Never say never to God, who—they have learned—has a wicked sense of humor!



**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

**Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are placed in loving memory of my parents, Roger and Dawn Williams by Starr Schaeberle.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

**Worship Next Week: June 6**

Look for details in the June newsletter or in the weekly email.

**LIVING JOYFULLY: Reflect, Then Step Out  
BECOMING A GOOD STEWARD OF YOUR TIME  
Zoom discussions – Sunday June 6 and June 13 at 7 p.m.**

What is your most valuable asset? Most people would say their bank fund or their property. But truly, it is your time.

What are you engaged in when you lose track of time? What activities make you feel alive? What opportunities are you drawn to? With everything you know about yourself – your gifts, skills motivations, interests – how would you like to spend your time? God is nudging you. God wants you to live fully as your unique self.

Invest an hour of your time, guided by members of the Stewardship/Generosity Team, exploring and examining how God is encouraging you to step out in faith, living joyfully. There are two opportunities to join on Zoom: Sunday, June 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88423175369?pwd=ZkpnOTZucTFaMzhJMFB2akZEQ0hBdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 884 2317 5369**

**Passcode: 473395**

For more information, please contact Jeanellen Kallevang@ [geegirl@hotmail.com](mailto:geegirl@hotmail.com)

# Holy God, We Praise Your Name

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Anon., German, c. 1774

Rev. 4:8-11

Transl. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1853; alt.

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we  
2 Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
round are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name they hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
Three we name you, While in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heav - en - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heavens with  
and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; So we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.  
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.  
rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

# As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

605

Versification The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 3:14-17

1 As Mo - ses raised the ser - pent up, God's  
2 For God so loved the world that God, all  
3 That Child was sent in - to the world not

Child is lift - ed high; And all who in that  
hu - man life to free, Gave to the world God's  
to con - demn but save; Now through Christ's name all

Child be - lieve shall nev - er, nev - er die.  
Child that all might live e - ter - nal - ly.  
are re - deemed— what won - drous love God gave.

TRINITY SUNDAY  
(FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)

May 30, 2021

John 3:1-17

### Mysterious Encounter

In today's Gospel story, the man Nicodemus has an encounter with Jesus that changes his life. As Christ's disciples, we never know what small interaction might be life-changing for those we meet.

Andy DeBraber, generosity officer of the United Church of Christ, tells this true story.

At a gathering of United Church of Christ members who support the National Setting financially, the question was asked, "Why do you support the UCC?"

At first there was silence, but then a man in his 70s from rural Ohio stood up. His wife elbowed him, he explained, so he had been nudged to tell his story.

As a child, he had learned to give to the church and be generous from his father. His father would give him a dime each Sunday to put in the offering plate. Then one Sunday, he turned to his father at the offering for his weekly dime to put in the plate.

His father refused. You see, he had just started delivering newspapers. His father told him that from now on, the boy had to put his own dimes in the plate. Learned early, his practice of giving continued into adulthood.

But why does he now give so generously to all settings of the UCC, 62 years after that long-ago lesson?

"I was a homophobe and racist," he said. "And if it weren't for the UCC, I still would be."

Just like Nicodemus, the man in this story was changed, and changed again. First by his father who taught him the value of giving and then by those who helped him see a way of love and openness. How might your witness bring change to the world?



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