

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



Son, Rise by T. Denise Anderson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent

19 March 2023 ❖ 10:00 in the morning

Welcome to this service of worship. Open your heart to the familiar and the new, and may your spirit relax into the peace of God's presence as we share this time together.

For those worshipping in-person: While masks are optional, for the safety of our community and congregation, as well as your individual health, **we strongly urge all those worshipping in person to wear KN95 or N95 masks** without respirators, over their nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status. Please respect those who may wish to social distance.

Live Stream: Please be advised that our service is live streamed. You may appear on camera.

Worship Response Cards & Prayer Requests: Please complete the weekly Worship Response Card online or place it in the offering plates. Submit prayer requests on card or to the Pastor.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located down the hallway, behind the sanctuary.

Children: Children are always welcome to join us in the sanctuary for worship. If you choose to use it, our family worship space is located in the front right of the sanctuary. For those children who wish to participate in Children's Worship, please join the class outside, prior to worship. Our downstairs nursery is also available for parent use. See usher for directions. Children who attend Children's worship will rejoin the congregation at the time of offertory.

Worship is at the center of the life of The Congregational Church, UCC.

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Whether you are a long time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to discuss matters of faith or learn more about our church, we invite you to contact our pastor at (828) 859-9414.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

Kindly silence your devices upon entering the Sanctuary

† Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together to prepare our hearts to worship as the people of God.

MORNING MEDITATION

The Bell Choir

Rejoice the Lord Is King - arr. Lloyd Larsen

¶ Please quietly recall the presence of God and prepare yourself for worship as you receive the gift of our prelude music.

† HYMN, *Insert*

We Come With Questions

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

CALL TO COMMUNITY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ellen Harvey Zipf, *liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand.

We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.

We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need.

I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

†THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

¶ *Greet one another with a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ (a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).*

Listening

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song as we listen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

A reading from the book of Psalms:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

¶ *The People stand as the Word is brought among the People to be heard and received.*

†SUNG ACCLAMATION

As Longs the Deer

†THE GOSPEL

Let us listen for the Word of God. **Our ears are open.**

A reading from the Gospel according to John: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His

disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

John 9:1-41 (NRSVue)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *The People sit*

SERMON, *Who sinned?*

Rev. Meghan D. Young

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a merciful God,
a God who does not keep score, a God who wants good for us.
We believe in a creative God,
a God who would heal with mud,

a God capable of seeing what we cannot.
We believe in a saving God,
a God who heals, a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.
What wondrous love is this. Amen.

Responding

We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer.

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Bell Choir

My Jesus, I Love Thee - arr. Jason Krug

THE OFFERTORY, *One Great Hour of Sharing*

To contribute, you may put your gift in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary, click on the "Give" tab at ucctryon.org, scan the QR code, or mail in your pledge. Reflect on the blessings you have been given, and how you are called to bless others.



†SONG OF GRATITUDE #46 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

†PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

†HYMN #424

We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Lindsay Lewis, *Minister of Faith Formation*

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY: JOYS & CONCERNS

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us out into the world to love God and our neighbors.

†HYMN #445

Be Thou My Vision

†BLESSING

†SENDING SONG #337

Let Us Now Depart in Your Peace

POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude - Iouri Gritchetchkine

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

***We are a church that believes life is worth living,
people are worth loving, and God is worth trusting.***

Thank you to those assisting in today's service.

Worship Leaders:
Lindsay Lewis
Dr. Susan Lyle
Rev. Meghan Young

Usher:
Anna Bucher
Rose Bucher

Liturgists:
Ellen Harvey Zipf

Music:
The Chancel Choir

The Bell Choir
Jane Patterson,
Director
Elaine Jenkins,
Astrid Meng, Jim
Patterson, Patty
Short, Jackie
Weedon, Sherril
Wingo, Ellen
Harvey Zipf

Sound & Video:
Michele Brulé
Lisa Schulenburg

Community Hour:
Andrea Walter
Flowers:

Given by the Bucher family in honor of Spring.

Pastor Meghan's door is always open, so please email or call if you would like to schedule a time to meet. Friday is her sabbath day, but she can be reached by cell (860-966-2432) in case of pastoral emergencies.

Community Hours this week will be Wednesday from 9-10 AM at All Good Things Bakery in Tryon.

UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check eblasts for more information about upcoming gatherings, volunteer opportunities, and ways to participate in community care. Get involved, connect, and enrich your spiritual life and your relationships in the church community.

“seeking: honest questions for deeper faith”

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God. Pick up Lenten brochures and devotionals from the Narthex. They will also be provided through the eblast.

One Great Hour of Sharing

TODAY, Sunday, March 19

Today is One Great Hour of Sharing—a special denominational mission offering, used in places lacking health and educational resources, and/or where disaster has struck. By participating in this special offering, we join our resources together as Christ's body to partake in a common witness and make a collective positive impact where critical human needs exist.

Getting To Know Us Again: Round 2

Date and times vary. Sign up online through the eblast.

This Lent, sign up for a 75 minute gathering at the church. We will meet in groups of no more than 7 and get to know each other by answering 3 questions. Lent is about restoring our connections - this is a great place to start.

Joy & Justice Book Club

TODAY, Sunday, March 19, after worship

Join us for a discussion of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Young Adult version also available for discussion with youth. Sign up online.

Kudzu Eradication - March 25, 10 AM, Back Parking Lot

Join us to rework the area from last year and remove any debris possible. We're identifying natives and restoring our historic woodlands. Invite all you know to help. It is a wonderful donation to God's world. Contact Carol Meeske for more information.



Looking Ahead This Week

March 19–March 26, 2023

Sunday, March 19

11:00 am ~ Community Hour
11:15 am ~ Joy & Justice Book Club

Monday, March 20

2:00 pm ~ WISE Book Club

Tuesday, March 21

6:00 pm ~ Governing Board Mtg.

Wednesday, March 22

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group
12:00 pm ~ Kiwanis
1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge
4:00 pm ~ Chancel Choir
5:00 pm ~ Bell Choir

Thursday, March 23

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge
11:00 am ~ Tryon Estates Worship

Friday, March 24- Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

Sunday, March 26

10:00 am ~ Worship
10:00 am ~ Children's Worship
11:00 am ~ Community Hour
11:15 am ~ Quarterly Conversation with
the Governing Board

Full calendar listings in our weekly "Be The Church" email and on our website.

5th Annual Jesus Christ Superstar Sing-Along - Sunday, April 2 at 7 PM at the Tryon Theatre
Save the date. More information to come.

Easter Brunch Invitation - Sunday, April 9th

You're invited to a church fellowship brunch after our Easter service. All in our church family, plus any family and guests you wish to bring, are invited to brunch at Sherril Wingo's home in Columbus. There's plenty of parking. It will be a "pot luck" meal; however, you are asked to identify what you will bring and in what quantity. RSVP is requested by Good Friday, but all will be welcomed regardless. To RSVP, please contact Sherril. Landline: (828) 894-6081, Text/Mobile: (828) 817-1668, Email: sherrilwingo@gmail.com.

Church Office Hours - Monday & Tuesday, 9:30 AM - 2 PM. Wednesday & Thursday, hours vary. If you want to drop something off at the church outside of set office hours, or discuss a church matter, please contact Pastor Meghan at 860-966-2432.

Get help with Breeze. Contact the church office for help registering or getting set up on your phone. Breeze will better connect you with the congregation and our ministries.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Prayer Group - Wednesdays at 12 PM on Zoom ([link in email](#))

Join us as we pray for the congregation, the community, and the world.

Church Fun Contract Bridge - Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30 PM, 4th floor of the church

Social bridge group. No fee, just fun. Open to all. Contact Miles Southworth to RSVP.

Prayer List

Prayer requests are submitted by filling out the Worship Response Card with a prayer request and placing it in the offering plate, or notifying the Pastor.

Joys: March birthdays and anniversaries.

Ongoing Concerns: Tina Stacy, Karen Killough, Sue (*Kathy Wells' daughter*), Sheila Jackson, Jerry Soderquist, Melissa Cox, Barney Eiserloh, The Mullin Family, Corie Watkin, Buddy & Quanita Williams, Matt Brown, Cathy Berlin, Students and their teachers, Sonja Karlsen, Baby Eloise, Marge Short, those killed and hurt by gun violence, our military and deployed personnel, Ginger Leavitt, Judith Cloud, for our country, all those in need of healing from Covid-19, Ruth Foy. All the CAREGIVERS among us who affect and touch so many lives.

Grieving: The Family and Friends of Julien Besnard. The Family and Friends of Leah Justice. The Family and Friends of Joe Boals. The Family and Friends of Ann Harvey Morgan.

United Church of Christ: The ongoing work of our Southern Conference minister The Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, our Interim Western North Carolina Association Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Warren Casiday, and of our partner churches in the Western North Carolina Association, Eastern North Carolina Association, and Eastern Virginia Association.

Global Ministries: The ongoing work of our partners in Global Ministries Mission personnel serving in the Japan.

Those Who Serve: For teachers, health care workers, first responders, poll workers, essential workers and all who sacrifice and serve. For the families that support those who serve through deployments, trainings, and each shift. For veterans and their families, who have given and sacrificed so much.

Our Neighbors: Those impacted by the evils of gun violence. The people of the Ukraine. For those impacted by climate disasters. All seeking refuge, peace, and justice. Those lacking adequate shelter, food, safety, and assistance in Polk County and beyond.

An Open and Affirming Community

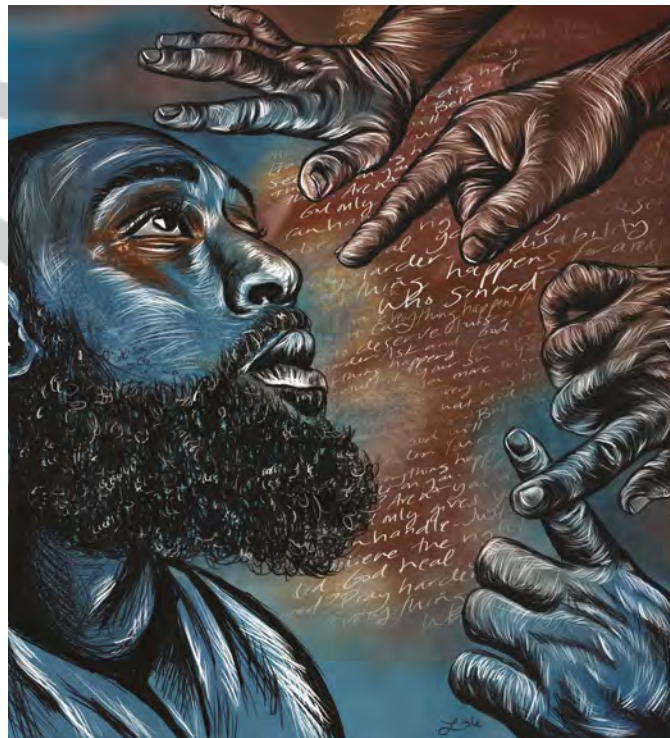
Founded in 1891



The Congregational Church of Tryon welcomes persons of all ages, races, social and economic circumstances, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, abilities and church backgrounds to participate in the life and ministry of our church.



“**WHOEVER** you are and **WHEREVER** you are on life’s journey, you are **WELCOME** here.”



Insight by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

The Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

210 Melrose Ave, Tryon, NC 28782 ❖ 828.859.9414 ❖ www.ucctryon.org

Ministers, *The Members of The Congregational Church, UCC in Tryon*

Learn more about our life of faith together on our website or on Facebook.

Pastor, *The Rev. Meghan D. Young* ~ pastor@ucctryon.org

Minister of Faith Formation, *Lindsay Lewis* ~ faithformation@ucctryon.org

Minister of Music, *Dr. Susan Lyle* ~ music@ucctryon.org

Staff Accountant & Building Support Manager, *Tracie Lutz* ~ accounts@ucctryon.org

Custodian, *Brittany Plumley* ~ custodian@ucctryon.org

we come with questions

LOBE DEN HERREN ("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty")

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Erneuereten Gesangbuch (1665); harm. W. Sterndale Bennett (19th cent.)

We come with
Here is the
God help us

ques - tions as
mys - t'ry we
live in - to

sum - ing that
claim as the
mys - t'ry be -

there will be
fol - lowers of
yond com - pre -

an -
Je -
hen -

- swers
- sus;
- sion

Set - ting the
Christ has died,
Qui - et our

world
Christ
minds

in an
is raised,
al - ways

or - der that
Christ dai - ly
clam - or - ing

o - bes our
comes to re -
for some di -

gram
- deem
- rec

mar
us
tion

We want to
Grace free, not
Give us your

know
earned,
peace

where Spir - it's
whe - ther or
with all that

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riv - er will flow
 not we de - serve
 we can't per - ceive
 Frustrat - ed
 God works be -
 Hold - ing us
 by her me
 yond rules and
 with - in the
 an -
 boun -
 ten -

- ders
 - d'ries
 - sion