

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



Sermon on the Mount, Laura James

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Pentecost

9 June 2024 ❖ 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, we urge you to wear a mask if you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms, 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 on our website or by using your phone to scan the QR code to the right. Paper copies may be found in the back of the sanctuary and placed in the offering plates. Submit prayer requests via the response 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. Our Fellowship Hall and downstairs nursery is also available for parent use. See usher for directions.

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 Karen Killough and Dr. Susan Lyle, piano duet

As The Deer Longs for Water (based on Psalm 42) - arr. John Carter

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

WELCOME & GREETING

¶ *By introducing ourselves and sharing a warm greeting, we express the hospitality of our congregation. Please share a welcoming word with those around you.*

†HYMN # 167

Arise, Your Light Is Come

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who will not trade in their faith for a bushel of fear, for they know God's heart.

Blessed are those who stand alone at gravesides, for they are wrapped in God's arms.

Blessed are those who humbly care for the vulnerable, for they shall create new communities.

Blessed are those who miss dinner, and happy hour each night, to care for the forgotten, for they shall be filled with the manna of hope.

Blessed are those who are compassionate, even with those who rub them the wrong way, for they will be cared for by others.

Blessed are those who look out for their neighbors, for they live next door to God.

Blessed are the menders of brokenness, for they know what it is like to be reconciled to God.

Blessed are those who are mocked by the rich and the powerful,

for they know they are walking the streets of the kin-dom.

Blessed are you when others mock you, point at your mask, think you are foolish for keeping your distance, caring for others, for then you know you are a sibling of Jesus.

Blessed are all those who model faith for us in these uncertain days, weeks, months.

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sandra Gass, *Liturgist*

Long ago on a hillside, the Teacher spoke words for our faith, God of foolish people, and we still do not listen. Full of arrogance, we have no need for a home for our spirits. Taught to be strong, we push away your arms of comfort. Seeing how the wealthy and selfish are idolized, we want to inherit their hearts. As we pass the hungry in line at the food bank, we rush to the store to hoard more. Noticing how the kindest of people are mocked, we develop hardened hearts.

Have mercy, God who turns stragglers into saints, when we follow the wrong people, listen to words we shouldn't. For it is those who make peace, who know your hope. It is those whose hearts are in rhythm with yours who see the most vulnerable. It is those who care more for others than themselves, who have learned the soul behind the words of the Teacher, who would guide us to your living waters. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Lost, we find our way, as we seek God; overwhelmed by loneliness, we are heard when we cry out; stumbling over our foolish choices, we find mercy when we tell all to our God.

We are no different from all we call saints, for they found life in the mercy and grace of our God. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

†THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

¶ Passing of the Peace confers the blessing and peace of God as a spiritual act of unification. Please turn to your neighbors, in the pew next to you, and offer a sign of Christ's reconciling peace with the words "the peace of Christ be with you" and a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).

SUNG RESPONSE #375

Weave

Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together in unity and love.

Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together, together in love.

Listening

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah:

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NRSVue)

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

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

†SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, #296, vs 1 & 2, no refrain *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

**Open your ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O faithful people, God now speaks to you.**

**They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;
They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word.**

†THE GOSPEL

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSVue)

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

†SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION#296, Sing refrain only x2 *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

¶ *The People sit following the acclamation.*

SERMON, *The Sermon on The Mount: The Beatitudes* Rev. Meghan D. Young

Responding

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Chancel Choir

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

William Walker and Southern Harmony, arr. Austin Lovelace

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: 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.

†HYMN, insert, vs. 1-4

We Are the Light of the World

CALL TO COMMUNITY

THE OFFERTORY

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

†PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Sending

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

†HYMN #373

We Are Your People

†BLESSING

†BLESSING RESPONSE, #291

Danish Amen

Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

Karen Killough and Dr. Susan Lyle, piano duet

Halle, Hallelujah - arr. John Carter

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Thank you to those assisting in today's service.

Worship Leaders:
Dr. Susan Lyle
Rev. Meghan Young

Ushers:
Tom & Mary
Rounds

Liturgists:
Sandra Gass

Music:
The Chancel Choir
Karen Killough

Sound & Video:
Andrea Walter
Ray Owens

Community Hour:
Sign-up online or in the Narthex

Flowers:
Donated by Karen
Lawrence.

Sign-up for worship leadership positions or to donate flowers, online or in the Narthex.

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.

Join Pastor Meghan for Community Hours this week on Wednesday, from 2-3 PM, at All Good Things Bakery.

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.

Summer Worship Series: Sermon on The Mount

June 9, 2024 - July 14, 2024

Join us as we explore Jesus' rich teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. Not so much a sermon but rather a series of discrete teachings, found in Matthew 5-7, is what Amy-Jill Levine, in her book *Sermon on the Mount*, describes as "a beginner's guide to the kingdom of heaven." She writes that "the kingdom of heaven occurs when people take the words of Jesus in these chapters to heart and live them." Over the next six weeks, we'll explore the Beatitudes, Jesus's Torah interpretation, Jesus's thoughts on practicing piety, the Lord's Prayer, and see how profound it is when heard through the ears of a first-century Jew living in the Roman Empire. Then we'll move to Jesus's wise words about how we find our treasures, and how easily we are distracted by what we don't actually need. We'll end with "living into the kingdom" and what that might mean for us.

Summer Feeding Program (Feed A Kid)

We're looking for volunteers to help deliver food bags for families in need this summer. Our delivery dates are June 13 & July 11. You can sign-up online or in the Fellowship Hall to pack or deliver.

Seeking Nominations For The Governing Board

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations or self-nominations for the Governing Board. Please contact Pastor Meghan, Carolyne Rostick, Jackie Weedon, or Donna Wise for more information.

Climate Hope Fellow

We're hiring a summer intern, thanks to a grant from the Unite Church of Christ, to support our creation justice ministries. Find more information on our website.

Worship Conversations - Sunday, June 9, following worship, Fellowship Hall

Join us for our monthly worship conversations.

Kudzu Clean-Up Workday

Saturday, June 15, 9-11 AM, Back parking lot

Join us as we remove invasives and restore our native woodlands. Bring work gloves and dress appropriately.

Monthly Game Night & Dinner

Saturday, June 15, 5-7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite game! Free will offering for dinner. Sign-up appreciated.

You're Invited: Baby Shower - June 23, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

On behalf of the Governing Board, you're invited to a baby shower for Meghan & Lisa. RSVP appreciated.



Looking Ahead This Week

June 9 - June 16, 2024

Sunday, June 9

11:00 am ~ Community Hour
11:30 am ~ Worship Conversations

Wednesday, June 12

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group
1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge
4:00 pm ~ Choir
5:00 pm ~ White Chapel Ringers

Thursday, June 13

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

Friday, June 14 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

Saturday, June 15 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Tryon Thrift UCC
9:00 am ~ Kudzu Removal
5:00 pm ~ Game Night

Sunday, June 16

10:00 am ~ Worship
11:00 am ~ Community Hours

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

Church Office Hours - Monday & Thursday, 9:30 AM - 2 PM. Tuesday & Wednesday, 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 & MONTHLY GATHERINGS

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.

Connect Groups

Connect groups are small groups that gather monthly, from September to May. Connect groups create space to connect, share, and learn together. Contact Pastor Meghan for more information.

Prayer Group - Wednesdays at 12 PM on Zoom (link in weekly eblast)

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

Support Group for LGBTQIA2S+ Youth and their Parents

Meets every last Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall & Parlor. Parents meet from 7-8 PM, Youth from 7:30-8:30 PM with time to socialize beforehand. A therapist will be present.

Tryon Thrift at UCC - Saturdays, 9 AM–3 PM, enter through the back parking lot

A youth run thrift store to benefit the ministries of the church and area non-profits. Donations of clothing, shoes, accessories (jewelry, bags, hats, etc.), books, CD's, & records are always being accepted.

WISE Book Club - 1st & 3rd Mondays at 2 PM in the Church Parlor

Any and all interested women are welcome. The group is currently reading and discussing, "Learning To Walk In The Darkness" by Barbara Brown Taylor.

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

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: June birthdays and anniversaries.

Ongoing Concerns: Linda Miner (*cancer*), Michael Collier (*brain cancer*), Rev. Christopher Huff (*Pancreatic Cancer*), Carol Jean Vosburgh (*recovering from back surgery*), Barney Eiserloh, Sarah Gibson (*cancer*), Ann Franklin, Adam Gumble, Witt, John Short (*cancer*), Madeleine Crolla, Kory Hemenway (*cancer*), Brett Surret, Bob Brueckner, Tom Rounds, The Mullin Family, Eloise, Marge Short, Ginger Leavitt, Ruth Foy.

All the CAREGIVERS among us who affect and touch so many lives.

Grieving: The Family & Friends of: Marty Morgan, Linda Eiserloh, Barbara Paulk, and Bob Reynolds.

United Church of Christ: The ongoing work of the United Church of Christ, including our General Minister & President The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, 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 work of our partners in Global Ministries Mission serving in the India.

Those Who Serve: For teachers, health care workers, first responders, poll workers, essential workers and all who sacrifice and serve. For those who serve, our military, deployed personnel and their families. For veterans and their families, who have given and sacrificed so much.

Our Neighbors: The people of Israel and Palestine - we pray for a just peace. Those suffering from climate change. 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.”

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

Interim Church Administrator & Accountant, *Lisa Owens* ~ accounts@ucctryon.org

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

Community Gatherings Coordinator, *Lindsay Lewis* ~ faithformation@ucctryon.org

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Verses



1. Bless - ed are they who are poor in spir - it,
2. Bless - ed are they who are meek and hum - ble,
3. Bless - ed are they who will mourn in sor - row,
4. Bless those who hun - ger and thirst for jus - tice,
5. Bless - ed are they who show oth - ers mer - cy,
6. Bless - ed are hearts that are clean and ho - ly,
7. Bless - ed are those who bring peace a - mong us,
8. Bless those who suf - fer from per - se - cu - tion,



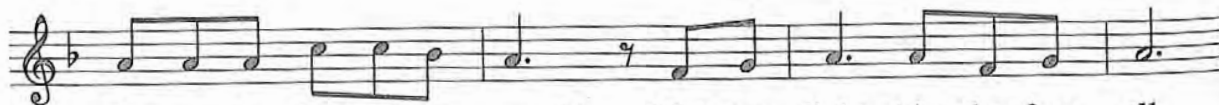
Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They will in - her - it the earth. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They will be com - fort - ed. Bless us, O Lord, when we
 They will be sat - is - fied. Bless us, O Lord, hear our
 They will know mer - cy, too. Bless us, O Lord, hear our
 They will be - hold the Lord. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They are the chil - dren of God. Bless us, O Lord, may your
 Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, when they



poor in spir - it;
 meek and hum - ble;
 share their sor - row;
 cry for jus - tice;
 cry for mer - cy;
 pure and ho - ly;
 peace be with us;
 per - se - cute us;

Bless us, O Lord, our God.

Refrain



We are the light of the world, May our light shine be - fore all,



That they may see the good that we do, And give glo - ry to God.