

March 1, 2017
Ash Wednesday

Manchester churches create prayer labyrinth

Two historically connected Manchester congregations, the Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Trinity United Church of Christ, worked together to create a prayer labyrinth out of donated food items Sunday afternoon.

"We were looking for a joint project to bring the members of the two churches' congregations together," explained Charlie Marshall, the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. "The churches have a shared history going back to 1760. The two denominations, German Reform and German Lutheran, shared a building on this site."

Marshall said the labyrinth is based on the design of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth in France. He explained that labyrinths are used during prayer.

"People walk through the labyrinth slowly, reflecting on the twists and turns of life that lead them to God. The path ends in a central circle where people can stop to pray. They return by the same path as God sends us back into the world to serve others," Marshall said.

"My personal experience of walking the labyrinth is that every time you learn something new," added Suzanne Adele Schmidt, the pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ. "It has a way of transforming how you look at your life and your relationship with God."

Marshall began laying out the design with masking tape at 6:30am Sunday. Around noon, 25 children and 15 adults from both congregations filled in the outline with 830 food and other items. Schmidt said the items will be donated to Northeast Social Action Program (NESAP) in Hampstead and the Tree of Friends Foundation in Manchester. "It's a way of giving back to the community," Schmidt said.

Schmidt said the congregations have been collecting items since the beginning of February with the help of Manchester Elementary School students, Boy Scout Troop 320 and Cub Scout Pack 320.

Marshall said the labyrinth will be open to the public 8:30am to noon on Ash Wednesday, March 1. It will also be used during worship at 1 and 7pm on that day.

On Thursday, Manchester Elementary School's Road to Respect Club will come and pack up the food. Members from both churches will deliver it to the organizations.

Immanuel Lutheran Church member and Boy Scout Ryan Edwards, 10, of Manchester, helped create the labyrinth.

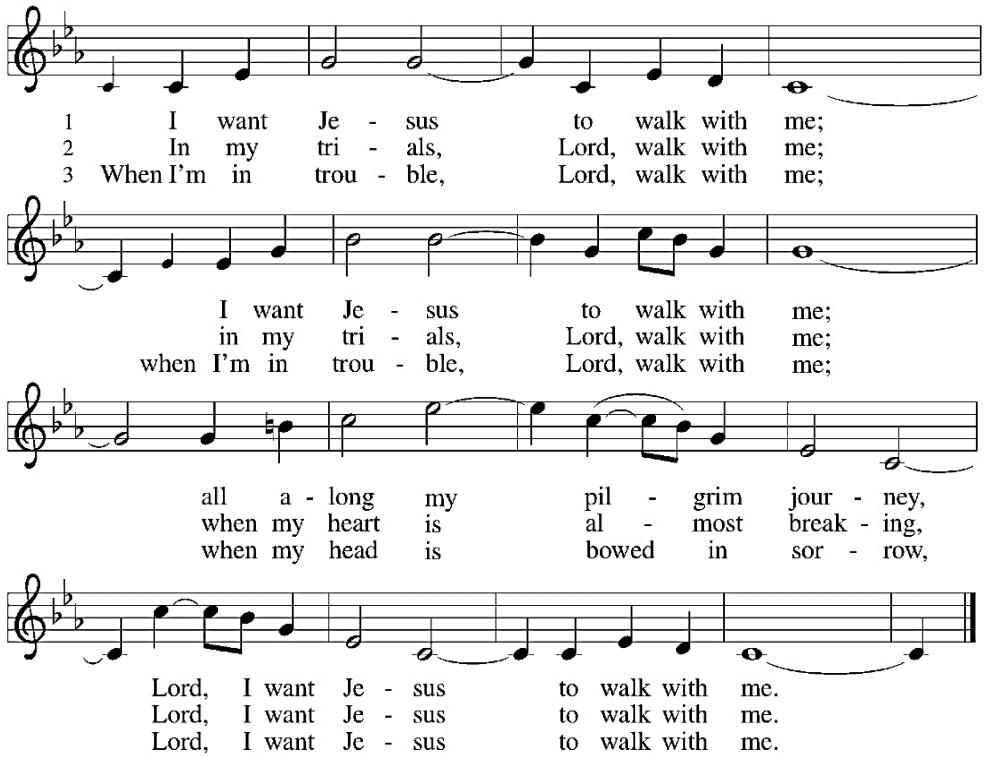
"I think it really represents life with its twists and turns," Ryan said. "Once you get to the center, you can spend some time praying." Ryan said creating the labyrinth was "very hard work." "We used a lot of food," Ryan said. "I'm glad it's going to go to people that don't have a meal every day."

Ryan's mother, Jennifer Edwards, said the activity was a "good opportunity to come together." "It's a nice way to give back to others as well as to have a time to reflect and pray on our blessings," said Edwards.

OPENING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

ELW #325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rend your hearts and not your garments; return to your God. For God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us ask God to break forth light into the dark places of our hearts and confront us with hidden and secret sins, all that we keep hidden in the dark.

Let us confess silently before God.

PRAYER OVER ASHES

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality, penitence, humility, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

DISPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to come forward to receive ashes from either pastor while meditative music is played.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PILGRIM PATH

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

All are invited to walk the labyrinth in silence while scriptures are read and meditative music and chants are played and sung. Those not walking may sit quietly and join in the singing. You may also follow the printed labyrinth by tracing the path slowly and prayerfully with a finger.



A READING FROM ISAIAH

Isaiah 58:5-9

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

⁹Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

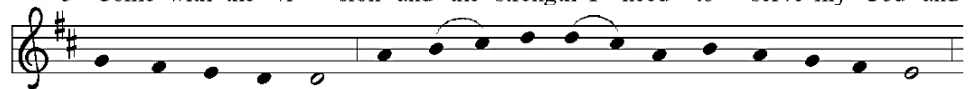
LABYRINTH CHANTS

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

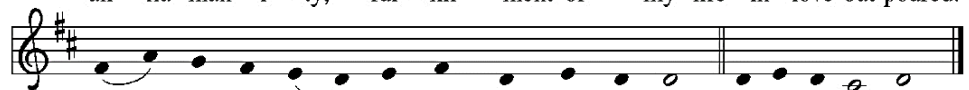
ELW #402



1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your
3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God and



ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
pur- pose and your will, where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
all hu - man - i - ty; ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured:



and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me. A - men.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996

Music: ADORO TE DEVOTE, plainsong mode V, *Processionale*, Paris, 1697

Text © 1974 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"Jesus, Remember Me"

ELW #616



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community

Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3338. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*
Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
English text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

When all have completed the Labyrinth and returned to their places, the service continues.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Turn it toward you, loving God, and unite it in a desire to live for you alone.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain in us a willing spirit to care for the earth and all that lives on it, knowing that we are stewards of your creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Let no leader put an obstacle in the way of those seeking your justice, peace, and love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let your light break forth and shine on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, including those we remember now...
Let your healing spring up quickly.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide this assembly constantly back to your word, your holy meal, and the unfailing waters of baptism.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed who have returned to the dust and thus to you... Inspire us by their examples of holy living.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you on your Lenten pilgrimage.
And also with you.

OFFERING

Anthem *"He's Always Been Faithful"*
- Sara Groves; arr Tom Fettke

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, you led your people Israel through the labyrinth of the wilderness, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our wilderness, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Communion will be served in two groups, beginning with those on the organ side, from the front pew to the back, then repeating with the other side.

Come down the center aisle, take a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free available upon request), and either dip it in the wine chalice or eat it and take a small cup of grape juice.

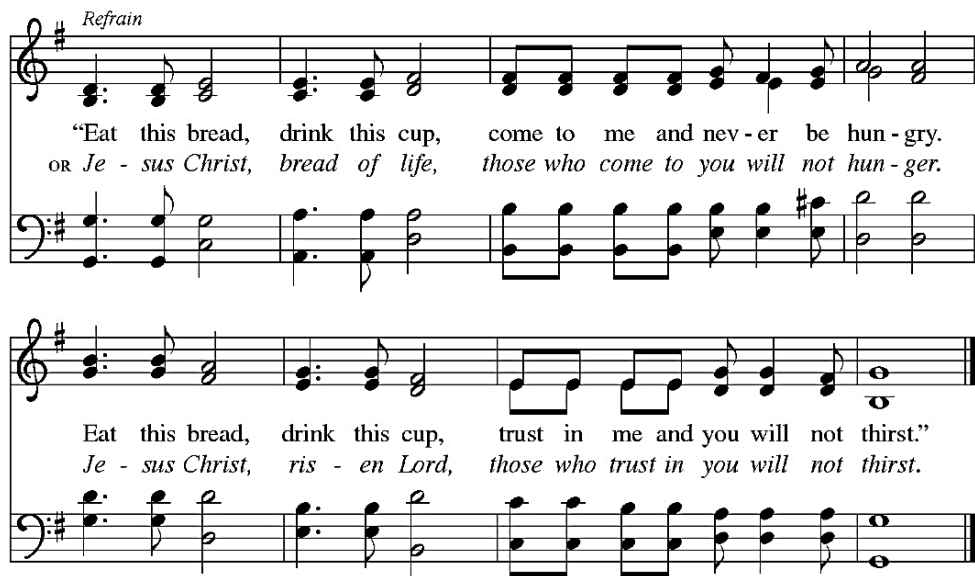
Return to your seat by the side aisle.

COMMUNION CHANT

"Eat This Bread"

ELW #472

Refrain



"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving and merciful God, we have opened ourselves to your loving grace and confessed our sins.

You have fed us with your Word, with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.

Lord, we stand now in that moment when we confess that we truly belong to you. You have created us and even now you are ready to create in us new life.

As we leave here tonight, let us be aware that from ash came life, and even now you stand ready to raise us to new life from the ashes of our sin, if in penitence we turn to you and accept your forgiving grace.

Lord sustain us in our own journeys to Jerusalem.

We pray in the name of your Son, our Companion, and our Savior. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Let us go from this place, knowing that we are not alone in our journey.

God is with us!

Let us go, seeking new life in Christ, and with the peace of Christ in our hearts.

Amen.

LENTEN SOUP, STUDY, AND WORSHIP

Immanuel Lutheran Church (IELC)
and
Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC)

will share a meal, study, and worship together on Wednesdays during Lent. We offer a day and an evening time. Each Wednesday we gather for an hour, starting at noon and at 6pm. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday Date	Location	Day Time	Evening Time
March 8	IELC	12pm	6pm
March 15	TUCC	12pm	6pm
March 22	IELC	12pm	6pm
March 29	TUCC	12pm	6pm
April 5	IELC	12pm	6pm

Although it is not necessary to attend all the mid-week gathering, we hope you will be able to attend most of them.

Immanuel Lutheran Church



3184 Church Street
Manchester, MD 21102

ImmanuelLutheranCCMD.org

Email: info@ielcmd.org

Phone: 410-374-4463

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York Street
Manchester, MD 21102

TrinityUCCManchester.org

Email:

trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Phone: 410-374-2727

