



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“AIR” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey **8:00 a.m.**

Bell Choir

“Just As I Am”

10:00 a.m.

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

VS 1 - 4

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

Refrain

Assisting minister

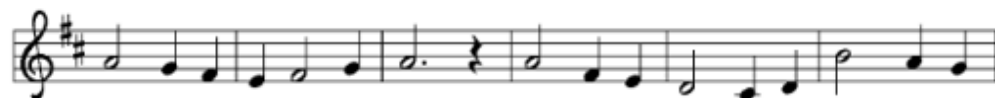


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bev Fischer 8:00 a.m.
The Weber Family 10:00 a.m.



Light of the world, shine in our dark-ness, and



bring us the light of your peace.



Long, long a - go, the pro - phets had told us that
 Je - sus the Light would ap - pear. Lord,
 send now that Light, and bright-en our spir-its and
 cast a - way all of our fear.

Childrens Sermon

Choir Anthem

“Halle Hallelujah”

10:00 a.m.

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Spoken Responsively)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD! God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according...C Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and

puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon “*It's The End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)*”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“My Lord, What a Morning”

ELW 438

The Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s Day of restoration.

A brief silence.

AM Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief; **Tom Jennings, Kay Burdo, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Brianna Chevez, Sue Brown, Judy Mock, Deann Schiavone, Val Brown, Ron Hetherwick, Tristan Kimmey, Austin Cunningham, Sienna, Reichen, Nacole, Kathy Chamberlain, Karen, Christine & Sean McCarthy.....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM. You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence, *especially Ray Chamberlain.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** **And also with you!**

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory

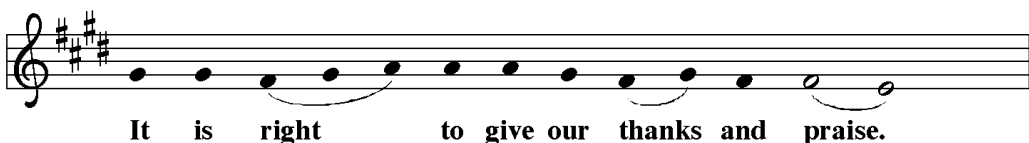
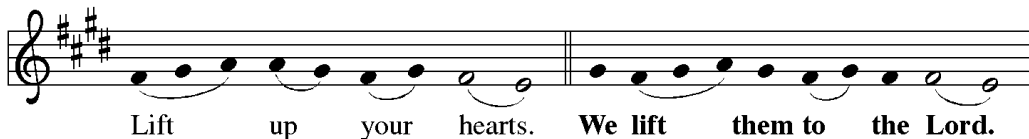
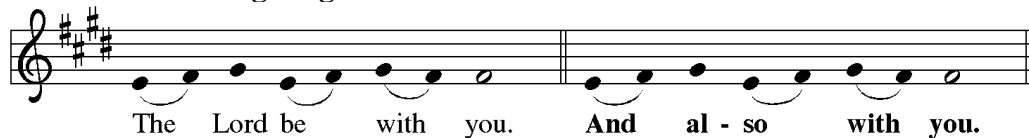
“Pavane” by Gabriel Faure

Bell Choir 10:00 a.m.

Offering Prayer

AM God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**



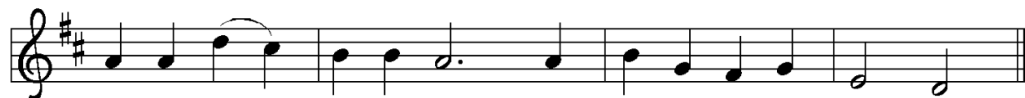
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

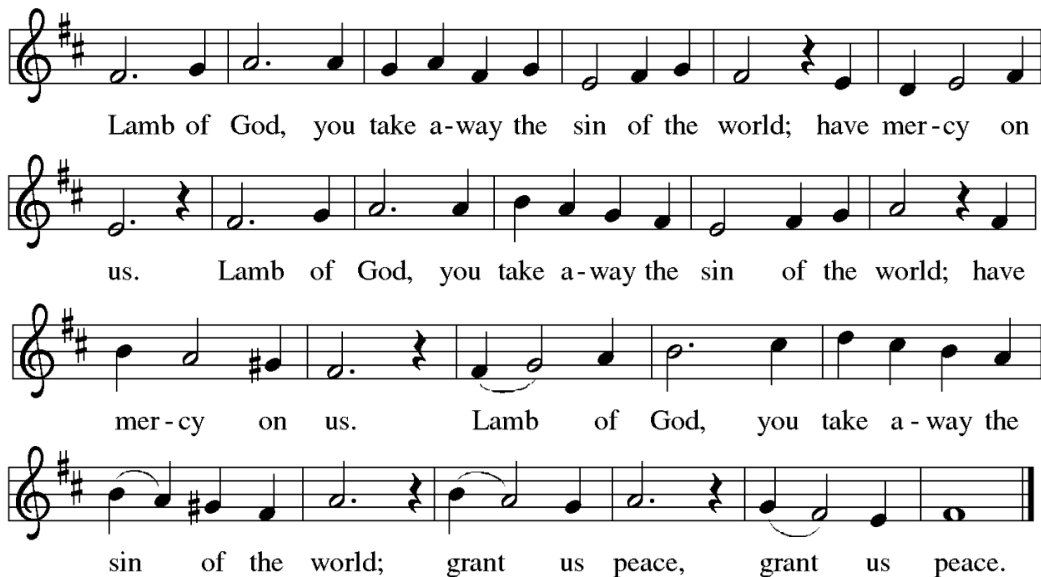
The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Hymns



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Choir

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

10:00 a.m.

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

P Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son, we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

ELW 260

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! Our family welcomes you to the house of the Lord today! We ask God to bless His Holy Word and Sacrament today so that his people might receive strength for living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!

We WELCOME YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

2023 Congregational Meeting!

TODAY! Sunday, December 3, following the 10:00 a.m. service.
Please plan to attend!

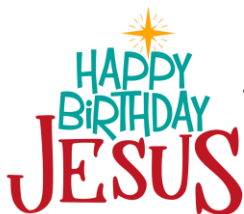
A Treasured Tradition - The Annual Covenant Signing: Community of Christ is nearing its 50th Anniversary. When the congregation was founded, its first pastor and leaders determined annually to affirm their participation in what God is doing through this particular congregation. Beginning today, Sunday, November 26, those who gather in worship (including those who participate “online”) will have the opportunity to renew this covenant. More information will be shared

during the Sunday morning services and by email. We hope that you will review this covenant and affirm your involvement in the life and ministry of Community of Christ.



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

Altar Flowers are given by Doug & Rose Ackerman. In honor of our son, Alex's 30th Birthday on December 7! ♥



Jesus' Birthday Celebration for the kids with games, crafts, and a sing-along session with Amanda Worthington and Eric Dickey! Sunday, December 17 @ 9:00 a.m.



Holden Evening Prayer

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 p.m., join us for a beautiful and contemplative sung setting of Evening Prayer and reflections on the Word that will ground us in our hope for Jesus' coming.

Blue Christmas 2023—December 17 at 4:00 p.m.

The holidays can be a difficult time for people, especially if they're dealing with grief and loss. Whether still working through a recent death, feeling renewed sadness over a long-time loss, or just struggling while others seem full of Christmas-time cheer, this can be a heavy season of the year. So, for the second year running, Community of Christ will be hosting a Blue Christmas service—a time of worship that offers comfort for those who need it, particularly at this time of year, and that connects our faith in God-with-Us who came among us in Bethlehem with our lived experience of loss and grief. This year's service will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 17, and is open to any and all who would find it helpful. You are welcome to invite friends, relatives, neighbors,

or community members who might need a moment this season for grief to be named and comfort to be given, here at Community of Christ.



The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Study will begin on Jan. 2, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. To start the New Year, we will be studying a 7-week study on prayer entitled "When You Pray". In this study session Bible teachers Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilken, and Kristie McLelland will help us study prayers in the Bible that will inspire our

own prayers. We'll learn that God welcomes our praise and lament, our thanksgiving and intercession. We'll find that when we pray our faith is strengthened and our heart is united to Jesus. You will have to order your own study book and a prayer journal is also available but not required for the Bible study. Please sign up on the kiosk- Questions?? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Scavenger Hunt



Attention All Youth Families!

Youth Scavenger Hunt for 5th-12th graders! Join us Sunday, December 10th at 5 p.m. for a fun youth event including a Scavenger Hunt and Christmas Party. We will meet at the church at 5 p.m. and adult volunteers will drive the kiddos around for the scavenger hunt. Afterward, we will head back to the

church for judging, dinner, and a gift exchange. Friends are welcome!!! Bring a \$5 wrapped gift for each participant.

Sign up here by *Monday, December 4th.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-youth1>

Email Laurie Dewitz at lsdewitz@gmail.com or Lainie Davis at lainedavis22@gmail.com with questions. Thanks! Hope to see you all there!



Christmas Caroling at Blue Creek Healthcare in Whitehouse!

Please join the Visitation Ministry Team on
Tuesday, December 12 @ 10:00 a.m.
by sharing the joy of Christmas Carols with
the residents and staff!

We will also distribute Thank You gifts to
the staff members this day as well!!!!

Let's spread some Christmas cheer to some of our members and friends who may not be able to attend holiday events in person. Join us as we go out to Christmas Carol on Saturday, December 16th. We will meet at the church at 4:30 and go to 5-6 locations. Afterward, we are invited to go to Kari and Kevin Swagler's home, 10240 Reed Road, for Pizza. Look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk. Bring your Christmas spirit and dress warmly.



Angel Gifts for Salem Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ will have the opportunity to reach out and bless the children at our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church in north Toledo. Salem Lutheran has provided us with a list of names of their children and their gift requests. These requests are in an envelope and are displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place.

Here are some important dates for the project:

- Enter your name on the pink or blue Angel slip on board and take the envelope. **Please do not remove pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board as this is our inventory method.**
- Shop for your Angel and leave your gift under the COC Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, December 17, 2023:** Have your gifts to the church by this date. *No later than 12:00 p.m.*

Thank you for helping to bless these children!
Shelly & Ken Hayes

Join us on Facebook Live at

10:00 a.m.

or

in person!

Worship & Sacrament

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Worship Services

Available on the net
at www.commofchrist.org

AA Meeting

Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting

First Monday of every month
6:30 p.m.



The Perrysburg Chorale's free holiday concert is at St Rose Catholic Church of Perrysburg, 215 E. Front St. on Friday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy beautiful holiday music in a lovely cathedral-like setting. Contact Lisa Alleman with any questions.



Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., & 11:00 p.m.