



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Steve Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

**Musical Prelude**

“Allemande” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

**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 writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✚ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

**ELW 335**

**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.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### Prayer of the Day

**P** O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Childrens Sermon

**Anthem**

Flute Solo, by Stephanie Phillips

**10:00 a.m.**

### THE READINGS

#### **The First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So, Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

## The Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## The Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come

to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

**Sermon**

“Lifted Up”

*Pastor Steve Bond*

**Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross”

**ELW 660**

**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** Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical

dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*). Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen healthcare workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain; **Tom Jennings, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Judy Mock, Kathy Phillips, Dick Rison, Marita Perkins, Frank O'Konski, Donna Longnecker, Cheryl Fischer, Paula Gruhler, Kevin Stiles, Ben Schuchmann, Tristian Kimmey, Duncan Laverie.....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith, *especially Kay Burdo* are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to the newness of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**P** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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”

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Hymn**

“Amazing Grace”

**ELW 779**

“God Loved the World”

**ELW 323**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Generous God, at this table, we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world: in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

#### *Milestones & Announcements:*

#### **The Blessing**

**P** God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“There in God’s Garden”

**ELW 342**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

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

#### **Postlude**



# "Making Jesus Known"

**Welcome to our Worship!** We are grateful you have chosen to worship with us this morning! May this Lenten season draw you closer to our Savior's cross. Let us give thanks for this time of prayer and sacrament. A very warm welcome to those who are visiting with us!

**Join US!!** Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live!!! Don't forget to BRING a FRIEND!!!

**Friends are you interested in Congregational Membership??** Please complete the visitor form in the friendship pad. Our Pastor would love to speak with you about Community of Christ! We hope you will consider making C of C your church home!



**The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study** will begin a new 7-week study beginning April 2nd. Kristi McLelland will guide us through the study "Jesus & Women in the First Century and Now". Kristi will take us back to Jesus' first-century world, explaining the historical & cultural climate of His day to help us know Him more dearly. This study is a thoughtful look at several of Jesus' interactions with women in the Bible that will fuel your worship of the Living God. Please sign up at the kiosk & remember you will need to purchase the study guide. Questions??? call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

## **Eclipse Day Gathering at Community of Christ (April 8, 2:30-3:30)**

Community of Christ is hosting an Eclipse Watching Gathering this April, and this is a big deal, astronomically speaking! The last time there was a total solar eclipse in northwestern Ohio was more than two hundred years ago in 1806, so this is the chance of a lifetime to see the sun's light being covered by the shadow of the moon. If you're looking for a place to watch, you are welcome to come to the churchyard on Monday, April 8, where from 2:30 pm to 3:30 p.m. we'll be celebrating the day

and observing the sky! We can't guarantee what the weather will be like on that day, and if it's cloudy our observations will obviously be limited, but if we get clear skies, this could be a wonder to behold! Since our local schools are off for the day, you won't be missing school, and we'll have some pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses available if you haven't gotten some on your own already (available in stores and online now, if you're interested in getting your own). Since our faith reminds us that God's love is even more faithful than the sun, since "there is no shadow of turning with thee", this is a chance to remember that even when the sun's light is covered up by the moon (or clouds) God's love is constant and ever-present—so it makes sense to be with us in the churchyard on a day like this! Join us on April 8 for Eclipse Day at Community of Christ!



**Altar  
Flowers**  
Ministry Opportunity

**Altar Flowers are given by Doug, Rose, and Alex  
Ackerman in Honor of Andrew Ackerman's Birthday!!**

**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.

**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.

**Clean & Feed Weekend**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Every Month

**Children's Sunday School TODAY @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Come join Us!!!**

**Worship Services**

Available on the net

at

[www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)

# LENT 2024

This Lent, join us for each of these Wednesday evenings, with a simple dinner shared at 6:00pm, a hands-on creative artistic project for all ages after dinner, and our evening service at 7:00pm!

Feb. 21--God Hangs Up the Bow

Feb. 28--Called By A New Name

Mar. 6--Learning To Be Free

Mar. 13--The Image of Christ, Part 1

Mar. 20--The Image of Christ, Part 2



**Stop for a second, close your eyes, and imagine you are face-to-face with Jesus. What do you see? For 2000 years thousands of artists all over the world have created countless images of Jesus, but these images have more to do with the artist than reality. There are paintings, sculptures, mosaics, frescos, and hooked rugs. Was He dark skinned or fair? Bearded or clean-shaven? Long hair or short? Tall and lean or short and stocky? What's the truth? Join us for the last two Lenten Wednesdays, March 13 & 20, to explore "What Did Jesus Look Like?"**

**Jazz Band Mar. 10** We are planning to host a concert featuring the Anthony Wayne High School Jazz Band here at Community of Christ **TODAY** Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. as one more special musical celebration.

**Bed Builds April 6** Part of our commitment as we give thanks for the past fifty years of our congregation's history is our pledge to take on new social ministries to help reach out to neighbors near and far with God's love. And this project is a really exciting way for us to mark that milestone of five decades!

**May 4-5 Weekend** The culmination of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration that began back in September 2023, commemorating the first organizational gatherings of what would become Community of Christ will be on the weekend of May 4-5, 2024, when we'll have a big celebration dinner and program, held at Anthony Wayne High School (as an homage to our first gatherings in that cafeteria before our first worship space was built), and then a joyful celebration in worship on Sunday, May 5, with guests and special friends joining us. More details are to come on these

days as we get closer, but please plan to join us on May 4 and 5 for the climax of our 50-year celebration! \*\*\***Please note that we will have ONE service on this day at 9:00 a.m.**\*\*\*

**The Masterworks Chorale** conducted by Tim Cloeter will present its Classics Concert at Epiphany Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m. This concert will focus on heavenly light—not only the literal light from the moon and stars but also the light of paradise. The highlight of the concert will be Fauré’s *Requiem*, an extraordinary light-filled remembrance of the dearly departed for choir and chamber orchestra. Tickets are available at 419-742-2775 or [www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com). Epiphany Lutheran Church is at 915 N. Reynolds Road in Toledo.



Hey friends! Have you seen the **Noisy Offering jar?**

If so, please bring your loose change to help raise funds for different ministries. From now until May, we will be using these monies to raise the needle on the thermometer for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraiser! This is a great and fun way for our youngsters to share their gifts during our Tithes and Offerings at the 8 or 10 o’clock Worship Service 😊 Thank you!

### **Holy Week at Community of Christ**

Our journey through Lent culminates in the drama, beauty, and passion of Holy Week, and you’re invited to gather with us in worship for these special events and services this Holy Week (March 24-31).

***Palm Sunday*** (8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)—*March 24*

The story of Jesus’ triumphal entry and revolutionary upside-down parade into Jerusalem begins Holy Week on Palm Sunday, and you’ll be invited into the story yourself with palm branches and celebration at our usual two service times on March 24.

***Eric Dickey’s “Jazz Passion”***—*March 27, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us for a special service concluding our Wednesday Lenten series with an arrangement of the Passion story of Jesus written by our own Eric Dickey and shared as part of evening prayer with a variety of instruments and voices, set in a jazz arrangement. Experience the story of Jesus’ journey to the cross in a whole new way with the music and drama of this arrangement!

***Maundy Thursday—Footwashing Forgiveness, and Holy Communion—March 28, 7:00 p.m.***

On the night of Jesus' betrayal, John's Gospel tells us that he washed the feet of his disciples (including Judas!) and commissioned his followers to love one another with the same self-giving love that serves even in lowly positions. We are also told that on that same night, Jesus took the remaining bread and cup of the Passover meal and re-imagined it as the meal of his own body and blood that we call Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. All of these moments point ahead to Jesus' act of self-giving love at the cross, and we are drawn into the story of it all on Maundy Thursday, as our worship includes the practice of foot or handwashing, the declaration of forgiveness, and the celebration of Holy Communion. Join us for this powerful night that begins the great Three Days (or Triduum) of the Holy Week story!

***Good Friday—The Passion According to Saint John—March 29, 7:00 p.m.***

We gather in worship to remember the story of Jesus' suffering and death, guided by the storytelling of John's Gospel, on Good Friday. Join us for a powerful service that brings each of us to the foot of the cross to witness and worship the Crucified One.

***Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil—March 30, 7:00 p.m.***

This is a new tradition for us at Community of Christ, but its roots are ancient and go back to the early centuries of Christian worship. On the night before Easter, we gather to retell the ancient stories of our faith, to kindle a new fire by which to light the Paschal Candle, to remember our baptism and renew our affirmation of living as the baptized followers of Jesus, and then to hear the first news of the resurrection! Our version of the Easter Vigil will be modified to be friendlier for families and children, too. Even though some versions of the Vigil of Easter begin in the middle of the night and last until dawn, ours will start at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the kindling of a fire outside and then leading inside where the art projects we've been making throughout Lent will be brought together as part of the Great Story of God, and we'll see our worship space transformed for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus! And instead of lasting all through the hours of the night, this service will run about an hour and a quarter—still giving a chance to experience the power of the move from death to resurrection, but also letting families with younger children still participating. We hope you'll join us for this special event that is unlike any other service in the church's year!

***Easter Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord***

Join us for the all-out celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, on Easter Sunday at both our 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services!

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<b>Christian Education Meeting</b>
Monday, March 11
<b>Church Council Meeting</b>
Tuesday, March 12
<b>Soup Supper</b>
Wednesday, March 13
<b>Primary Election Day</b>
Tuesday, March 19
<b>LWR Quilt Ministry</b>
Tuesday, March 19
<b>Book Club</b>
Tuesday, March 19
<b>Soup Supper</b>
Wednesday, March 20



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message

or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!