



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Adagio” by Beethoven”

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

“Restore in Us, O God”

ELW 328

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy, you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death, we may live in your Son, 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 10:00 a.m. “The Truth I’m Standin’ On” **Solo Amamda Worthington**

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

The Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went

and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and

dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for

eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon

“The Divine Tractor-Beam”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Spirit Open My Heart”

ACS 1043

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to



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 God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, Bed Build, LIFT, and all those needing prayers; **Tom Jennings, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Judy Mock, Kathy Phillips, Dick Rison, Frank O’Konski, Donna Longnecker, Cheryl Fischer, Paula Gruhler, Dorothy Petrell, Kevin Stiles, Ben Schuchmann, Tristian Kimmey, Duncan Laverie, Carol Golembiewski, Sharon Miller, Becky King, George and Mary Ellen Beaudoin...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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.**

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. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

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.*

Offering Prayer

AM Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, 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.

Anthem 10:00 a.m.

“Beautiful Things”

Solo Chad Ackerman

Hymn

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

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

“Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

ELW 545

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 Worship! We warmly welcome you to Community of Christ! We hope that God’s Word and Sacrament is a blessing for your day and the week ahead! If you are visiting and seeking a church home, we sincerely hope you will consider C of C! All are welcome to the table of the Lord today! Come and be blessed by the forgiving grace of our God!

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!



Altar
Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

**Altar Flowers are given by Vince & Laurie Mauro to
the Glory of God!**

**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

4th Sunday of Every Month

Worship Services

Available on the net

at

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 this Wednesday, March 20, to explore more of "What Did Jesus Look Like?"

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! More details are included in this Newsletter! Sign up at the kiosk!

May 4-5 Weekend The culmination of our 50th 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!

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! **Please sign up at the kiosk!**



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

Greetings from the 50th Anniversary Committee-

To help us commemorate our church's 50th Anniversary celebration we are ordering T-shirts. We're hoping the shirts will be worn during the Bed Build on April 6th and any other time we want to spread our word outside of our church building such as during Cherry Fest and Roche de Boeuf. The T-shirts will be light blue with the enclosed logo appearing on the front. The available sizes are Adult S-4XL and Youth XS-XL, the cost is \$15. The shirts can be ordered after our services at 8:00 and 10:00 TODAY. The due date for the orders is **TODAY**. However, payment can be made when the shirt is picked up. We hope to see a sea of light blue shirts on April 6th (and for good weather so we can show them off). Thanks in advance for supporting our goal. The 50th Anniversary Committee

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a collaboration of congregations in the Fremont area, including Emmanuel, Faith, Grace, St John's and St Mark Lutheran Churches, and Hayes Memorial UMC. Their mission priorities are: Being present in the community, witnessing God's love, hearing the needs, serving our neighbor, and striving for justice. One of their programs, ***Bridge of Hope***, prepares welcoming baskets for migrant families of Sandusky County every April.

Community of Christ is taking up this challenge the first four weeks of March and will be collecting items to help fill these baskets. Migrant workers arrive with what they can carry, a backpack or a small bag. They only have enough room for a few clothes and a few personal items. Before they earn their first paychecks, they need some basic items to help them get started. The list contains the following items: laundry baskets, garden gloves (M-L), lightweight blankets, rubber overshoes, pillows, fans, long sleeve thin cotton pullover shirts (S-L), Baseball Caps with neck covering, Small coolers, bandanas, first aid kits, thin lightweight coveralls (S-L), sunscreen, water thermoses, shampoo and conditioner, coffee mugs, laundry detergent, fabric softener, lunch boxes, toilet paper, electric razors, bath towels/facet towels/wash clothes, sunglasses, toothpaste/toothbrushes, light raincoats/parkas (S-L), deodorant. As you can see, they need several practical items to allow them to work long days in the fields, seven days a week, in all types of weather! I can picture Jesus and the Disciples, hanging out with the migrant workers: they are "foreigners", speak a different language, look different, are very poor, and are hated by many, just His type of people! Let's help ***Make Jesus Known*** to this marginalized community. For more information on LIFT:

www.liftchurches.org

Easter Lilies

This Easter we will still have live lilies in the sanctuary as usual (along with other seasonal touches to celebrate Christ's resurrection), but we are having to adapt this year due to scheduling issues with our local flower vendors. Because of how early Easter is this year, and the shortened window of time our vendors have to work with between major flower orders at Valentine's Day and Easter, none of the local flower vendors could give more than a single Sunday's worth of time for taking orders before a deadline from their of the first Sunday in March, which would not have given the congregation much chance to place individual orders for lilies in honor or memory of loved ones (and would have been very disappointing for any who missed that one Sunday window). So, the Worship and Music Committee has instead placed an order of lilies on behalf of the whole congregation, estimating enough for the wall behind the altar and in front of the ambo/reading desk. If you are moved to donate toward this purchase without necessarily needing to take home a lily after Easter, we would welcome your donations. And because of this challenge with the live flowers this year, Worship and Music is planning some special surprises for additional seasonal decor that you can participate in with your own hands and creativity on the remaining Wednesday evening services in Lent. So, while this will mean a slightly different way of doing our Easter flower orders for this year only, we appreciate in advance your bearing with the limits of the calendar and gracious understanding of our way of adapting for 2024!



Quilt-Making Day for Bed Build
Monday, March 18 (9-5)
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, March 19
Book Club
Tuesday, March 19
Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 20
Jazz Passion Service
Wednesday, March 27
Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, March 28
Good Friday Service
Friday, March 29
Easter Vigil Service
Saturday, March 30
Easter Services 8 & 10 a.m.
Sunday, March 31
Easter Monday – Office Closed
Monday, April 1

It is hard to believe that the April Newsletter will soon be upon us! Please submit any articles, pictures, upcoming news, etc. **no later than Thursday, March 21** by emailing them to secretarty@commofchrist.org. Thank you!



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!