



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Steve Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude “Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

**WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM**

*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, the wellspring of grace, our Life, and our Joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep, and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool, the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river, your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection, you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

**ELW 384**

## 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*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of  
 God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 (10:00 a.m.)**

“I Will Rise”

Faith Women’s Choir  
 Julie Zedlitz, Director

## THE READINGS

### **The First Reading: ACTS 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

### **The Second Reading: 1 John: 1:1—2:2**

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son


Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him, there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.


<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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


*Congregation:*



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



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

## **The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31**

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

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the

Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**Sermon**

*“Believe it or Not”*

*Pastor Steve Bond*

**Hymn**

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

**ELW 363**

**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** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed, and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, so that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain; **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, Paula Gruhler, Dorothy Petrell, Tristian Kimmey, Duncan Laverie, Carol Golembiewski, Sharon Miller, Becky King, Holli Blackburn, Iris Rockwell...** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with". The second staff continues the lyrics: "you. Lift up your hearts. We". The third staff concludes with: "lift them to the Lord. Let us give". The Congregation part begins on the second staff.

*Congregation:*

thanks to the Lord our God. It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

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

**HOLY**

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. 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.*





**Hymn**

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

**ELW 379**

“We Walk by Faith”

**ELW 635**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

#### **Prayer at the Sending of Communion**

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

#### *Milestones & Announcements:*

#### **The Blessing**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

**ELW 535**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

#### **Postlude**

# Making Jesus Known”

**He Is Risen!** Welcome to the Easter Season! The presence of the Risen Jesus welcomes us every Sunday we gather in the Lord’s house! We are glad you are here! May the good news of life, hope, peace, and joy bless you and yours! Thanks for choosing to worship with Community of Christ!

**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 Sandy Boehly in Honor of Kristen’s Birthday!**

## **Adult Forum in April and May 2024: Scenes from a Movement**

Throughout the weeks of Eastertide, our first lessons in worship each Sunday will be stories from the Book of Acts, which chronicles the early church and the spread of the first followers of Jesus into the world. And yet, many of us are not very familiar with this part of the Bible or the meaning it holds for our lives today as the church. So, join us in the Adult Forum for the spring to take a closer look at these stories and the way the Christian community developed from a fearful band of former fishermen and tax collectors to a budding movement across the Roman Empire, and now to the whole world. Join us for “Scenes from a Movement: Stories from Acts” this April and May at 9:00 a.m. in the library for our Sunday morning Adult Forum class! Everybody is welcome!

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

**TOMORROW!!!** 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, 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!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS TODAY!!** @ 9:00 a.m. between services in the fellowship hall with stories, songs, and FUN!!



**Family Game Night for Kids, Youth, and Grown-Ups on April 13** We're inviting everyone to join us for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and play at our Game Night on Saturday, April 13, starting at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share and a favorite board game, and we'll play, eat, and laugh together. We're also planning on a special Giant-Sized game for all, too,

so come and share a fun evening with something for everyone! This is a great event to invite a friend or family member to join us as well!

Hope to see you there!

## **April Ladies Lunch**

**Where:** Sunset Bistro, Bowling Green OH

**When:** April 26, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Becky will be at a wedding, so I am your contact person for the first Ladies' Lunch in 2024. Please sign up for the luncheon at the kiosk. If you have questions or want to share a ride, let me know. Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444. **Save these dates** for the rest of the Ladies' Lunches: May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, and October 25.

## **Piano Concert here at Community of Christ!**

Bryce Jennings will be performing here at Community of Christ on Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. Bryce is an alumnus of Maumee HS and knows our very own Eric Dickey! Bryce shared with me; "I was in good company during my high school days! Eric was one of my initial influences and exposures to the jazz music world! When he would come accompany us for our classes, I couldn't fathom the sounds he was producing from the keys! I'm beyond excited to be back!" Please join us and invite a friend! To learn more about Bryce, please see his bio on the kiosk! Program Order: 1. Amazing Grace 2. Tis so Sweet 3. My Jesus, I Love Thee 4. Great is Thy Faithfulness 5. Hold to God's Unchanging Hand 6. Medley, It is Well/How Great Thou Art 7. Holy Holy Holy 8. Jesus Paid it All 9. I Surrender All 10. Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus 11. The Benediction

## **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEWS from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

The culmination of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is rapidly approaching, the weekend of May 4 and 5. Invitations were recently sent out to our mailing list, but we may have inadvertently missed people, so we are also sending this information via email. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE TAKING IN-PERSON RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT THE NEXT TWO WEEKENDS AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**WEEKEND FESTIVITIES:** Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 pm at the Anthony Wayne High School Cafeteria (the location of our first worship service). Tickets are \$25.00 per person, \$15.00 for children 6-12 and free for 5 and under. **Please RSVP with payment to the church office by Monday, April 15.** The dinner will include a program where memories are shared. We would also invite you to send your memories to the church office at [secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org). We will also gather as ONE church for a single service on Sunday, May 5 at 9:00 am with a special guest, NW Ohio Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, preaching.



*Exploring*

# All Creation Sings

*a workshop for Rostered Leaders, Church Musicians,  
...and anyone excited about the church's song!*



You are invited to a workshop to get to know All Creation Sings, the hymnal supplement released late in 2020 as a companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the cranberry red hymnal). This resource contains 200 hymns and additional liturgy resources, but many haven't yet had the chance to get to become familiar with its songs and settings.



So join rostered leaders, musicians, and anyone interested in church music and song on Saturday, April 20 at 9:00am at Community of Christ Lutheran Church (6517 Finzel Road, in Whitehouse, Ohio) for a morning of song and sharing to get to know All Creation Sings and to explore how you and your congregation might make use of this resource.



Register through the Synod office at <https://nwos-elca.church> by April 8. A pew edition copy of All Creation Sings is included with the \$25.00 registration fee!

**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](http://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.

**Clean & Feed Weekend**

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

**Eclipse Gathering**

Monday, April 8

**Christian Education Meeting**

Monday, April 8

**Ladies Bible Study**

Tuesday, April 2 - May 14

**Church Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 9

**Thursday Bible Study**

April 11, 1:00 p.m.

**Stewardship Meeting**

Thursday, April 11

**Family Game Night**

Saturday, April 13

**LWR Quilt Ministry**

Tuesday, April 16

**Book Club**

Tuesday, April 16

**Thursday Bible Study**

April 18, 1:00 p.m.



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!