

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Teryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Julie Oren

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

**Please stand as you are able*

For your Reflection

When have you been lost or felt far from God's presence?

Prelude

Variations on Amazing Grace - Besemer

Welcome & Announcements

We All Sing

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...though it winds its way through darkness

We would choose (**we would choose**)...to avoid it if we could

We awake (**we awake**)...to an unexpected calling

God says, "Come (**God says, "Come**)...there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

Introduction

We All Sing

There's a Path

Unison Prayer

Permeating Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. When we feel overwhelmed by the twists and turns of life, quiet us, open us, heighten our senses to perceive your nudge toward life. In your many names, we pray. Amen

*Opening Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

Hymn #451

*Litany of Confession and Assurance

One: For plunging ahead without listening to You,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For not recognizing Your still small voice within us,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For forgetting to ask for assurance—your greatest gift,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silent prayers...

One: Hear these words of assurance: Lost is not lost to God. You are not lost to God. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

*The Peace of Christ

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Please pass the peace of Christ with one another in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*Response

God Welcomes All

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

Scripture Reading: Psalm 42:1-3 (NRSVUE)

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"

Gift of Music

Lord, Speak to Me

arr. Dietert

Contemporary Reading:

David Wagoner

"Stand still. The trees ahead
and bushes beside you
Are not lost.

Wherever you are is called Here.

And you must treat it as a powerful stranger.

Must ask permission to know it and be known.

The forest breathes. Listen. It answers.

I have made this place around you.

If you leave it you may come back again. saying Here.

No two trees are the same to Raven.

No two branches are the same to Wren.

If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you. You are surely lost.

Stand still.

The forest knows

Where you are. You must let it find you."

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 6-10 (NRSVUE)

The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the

boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Sermon

"The Gift of Getting Lost"

Pastor Bob

Time for Reflection

*Statement of Faith

Mary Luti

We believe in God,

**maker and re-maker of everything that is,
in whom there is always more,
and more to come.
By God's wonder, work, and will,
even the dead find life.**

We believe in Jesus Christ,

**maker and re-maker of tables and tales,
in whom welcome is wide, feasting is free,
and stories speak only of love.
By his words, his weeping, and his wounds,
even the lost are found.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**maker and re-maker of imagination,
who sees over the horizon, beyond the end.
By her urgency and fire, even the truth gets told.**

Therefore, we believe

**that everything that dies can be reborn,
all hidden things can come to light,
all broken things can be remade,
the empty larder can be filled,
all promises gone stale and hard
can taste like bread again.**

And we believe

**that the old, old Story can be re-told
to thrill sad hearts like rediscovered love;
and even lost and frightened lambs like me
can be retrieved, restored to courage,
and declare the truth that makes the tyrants tumble
and the captives free.**

This we believe.

God help our unbelief. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Come and rest (**come and rest**)

Come and listen (**come and listen**)

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) *Repeat from the top*

One: There are many people who are walking through the Dark Woods for various reasons. I invite you to call out names of those who need our prayers...

*Joan G, Darlene C, Joan A's grandson Blair, Glori & Ron K;
Families of Gloria H and Joann S*

One: There are many places in this world where uncertainty reigns. I invite you to lift up names of places in this world that need our prayers...

Come and rest (**come and rest**)

Come and listen (**come and listen**)

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) *Repeat from the top*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

One Great Hour of Sharing Video

Invitation to Generosity

God, who called to Samuel in the night, is still speaking today. Our offerings are an expression of thanks for this gift. Open now your hearts and share your possessions so that the church's work is made strong for the sake of the needy in this world.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - Doane

*Doxology

(Tune: *Old Hundredth*)

**Praise God the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us one humanity
to love and set each other free! Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Bless in every way the gifts we have given. Enrich our ministries to build your beloved community on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

Hymn #569

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...and it leads us out together
To the wood (**to the wood**)...where the darkness hovers still
We are sent (**we are sent**)...and the Spirit goes before us
God says, "Go (**God says, "Go**)...be my presence in the world."

Postlude

Lift High the Cross - Nicholson

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

Sunday School, 9:30am

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Wednesday, March 18

Bag Lunch, 11:30am

Noon Lenten Service

Greeters: Bob Polachowski

Counters: Danette Volz, Renolle Volz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You! | Dear Christ Church, Thank you for all your loving prayers, get well calls, and cards. I can't wait until I can be back with all of you at church. Love & God bless all of you, *Judy B*

Noon Lenten Services | will be held on **Wednesdays, March 18 and 25**.

If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

TODAY: Sunday School | First through eighth grade students are invited to participate in Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month. We will meet in the corner room on first floor, near the stairway. Sunday School will start at 9:30 and students will be released when church ends, to meet their parents in the Narthex. All are invited to join the fun! Questions? Contact *Michael Key*

TODAY: Rummage Sale | The Bay View Neighborhood Association has not set a date for the May Rummage Sale yet...stay tuned! There will be a short meeting on **March 15** in the Pine Room after church for anyone who is interested in being on the Rummage Sale Committee. Logistics and volunteer opportunities will be discussed. The sale may include bakery, crafts, and plants. Donations may be put in the music room. If the door is locked, see a Council member. If you need items picked up or if you need help getting things into the church, call *Michael and Janet Key* at 414-744-0973 (landline).

TODAY: One Great Hour of Sharing March 15 | For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. **Be the light.** Let us share generously and cheerfully as we give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

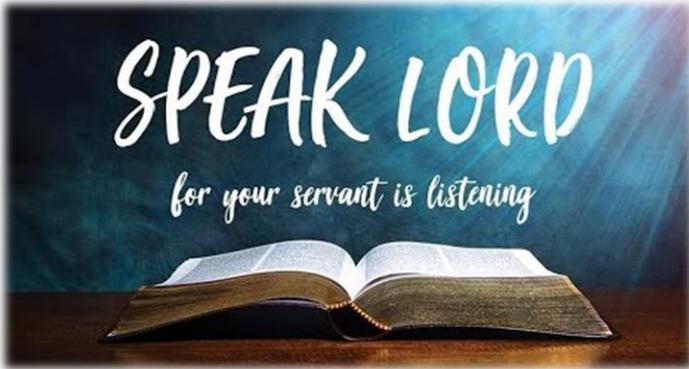
Boiler Repair | Many thanks to **Dick Gaeth and Dean Kothrade** for monitoring our boiler. They come into church every day to make sure the boiler continues to heat the building. We have experienced boiler issues for the past several months, so they have made many stops to oversee that we have continuing heat in the building. Dean has also contacted numerous companies about our situation. They have found someone who seems quite knowledgeable, but is not available until April. Hopefully, we won't have any more severe cold spells, but if it is exceptionally cold on a Sunday, please bring an extra sweater for comfort during worship. The Property Committee wants to ensure we spend money wisely on needed boiler repairs in April. Thanks for understanding.

Easter Baskets | The Social Concerns Committee will be coordinating the delivery of Easter baskets to the 13 people on our share and Care list. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Some suggestions include Easter decorations, candy, word search books, granola bars, mini pies, applesauce, crackers, small note pads or post it notes, small Kleenex packets, or anything to brighten someone's day. Please place your donations in the Pine Room by **March 22**. We will also need volunteers to deliver the baskets which will be ready by **March 29**. Please contact a Social Concerns member if you can assist. Thanks, *Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Naefken, Sara Rogers, Vicki Teal, Randene Wick*

March Church Lunch Outing | **Tuesday, March 24** at 11:30am | at Pita Palace, 789 W. Layton Avenue, Milwaukee. This restaurant has a Mediterranean cuisine. *All are WELCOME!* Please join us for lunch with your fellow Christ Church family members. Conversation and company are always fun! If you are interested, please sign up at the Lenox Street door. Questions: Feel free to ask *Jan Naefken* or anyone on the Membership Committee. Looking forward to seeing you there!

April Lunch and Mitchell Park Domes | Wed, April 8, meet at 10am at the Domes

Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study | beginning on **Wed, April 15** at 1pm.



1 Samuel 3:9

Monthly Activity	February	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$8,780	\$32,853
Expenses	\$17,957	\$39,213
Budgeted Amount	\$14,866	\$12,733
<i>Last week's offering: \$2,434</i>		

Christ Church UCC

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact **Pastor Bob** at 440-440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

