

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Doris Mayeshiba

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 tempted to choose the easy way over the right way?

Gathering Music

Prelude *Lento* - Boellmann

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

Unexpected Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. Open us to seek your voice from deep within, for we yearn to feel you moving in us. In your many names, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* **Hymn #589**

*Litany of Confession and Assurance

One: For paying more attention to the expected path than the right one,
All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For valuing the safe choices instead of the ones that lead to life,
All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For denying the world our best selves,
All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silent prayers...

One: Hear these words of assurance:

God desires our fully-alive selves.

God is cheering us on as we discern best choices.

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: Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Contemporary Reading:

Eric Elnes, *Gifts of the Dark Wood* (117)

"The Spirit beckons us not to be good, but to be human—humble, of the *humus*—which ultimately means finding your elemental waters, which are connected to God, and living into your fullest energies. You can (and will) do a lot of good by walking the path that brings you most fully alive in this world, but in order to stay on this path, you must learn to say no to doing a great many "good" things."

Sermon

“The Gift of Temptation”

Pastor Bob

Time for Reflection

*Statement of Faith

2 Corinthians 5:17

We believe that everyone in Christ is a new creation: everything old has passed away, everything has become new. 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

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, Gloria & Ron K;
Family & Friends of Jackie Struck who grieve her passing*

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

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.

Invitation to Generosity

As God freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, we respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

Offertory

Beneath the Cross of Jesus - arr. Buffam

SCAN TO DONATE



*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

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gift of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.

*Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Hymn #500

*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

At the Cross - arr. Staszkeski

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

Easter Basket donations DUE TODAY

Tuesday, March 24

Quilting, 9:30am

Lunch at Pita Palace, 11:30am

Council Meeting, 6pm

Wednesday, March 25

Bag Lunch, 11:30am

Noon Lenten Service

Choir, 7pm

Greeters: Joan Amich

Counters: Sara Rogers, Jill Unglaub

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noon Lenten Service | will be held on **Wednesday, March 25**.
If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

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!

Easter Basket donations are DUE TODAY! The Social Concerns Committee will be coordinating the delivery of Easter baskets to the 13 people on our share and Care list. Your donations are greatly appreciated. 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*

Palm Sunday Easter Flyer Distribution | Do you enjoy a "Spring" walk? Listening to the birds? If you do, please join the Membership Committee after the church service on **Palm Sunday, March 29**. We will be distributing flyers in the Bay View area inviting Christ Church neighbors to our Easter Morning Church Service, April 5. The walk should take about one hour. If you are unable to distribute flyers on March 29, you can still be involved and deliver them any time that week. *Please sign up on the bulletin board at the Lenox Street door.*

After the church service on March 29, please meet in the Chapel to obtain your flyers and assigned area.

Thank you so much in advance for your help. If you have any questions, ask anyone on the Membership Committee:

Randene Wick, chair, Susan Pfeifer, Church Council Rep., Joan Gaeth, Jan Naefken, Mary Ann Mowery, and Andy Oren

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.

Sunday School | Sunday School class is held the third Sunday of the month for children in grades 1 through 8. They will be singing in church on **Easter Sunday, April 5**. Upcoming Sunday School class dates are: **April 19 and May 17**. The end-of-the-year Sunday School celebration will be **June 7** and will be held in the game room. There will be no Sunday School class in July or August. Watch for information about Rally Day in September. For more information, contact *Michael Key* or *Pastor Bob*.

April Lunch and Mitchell Park Domes | Wednesday, April 8 | Meet at 10am at the Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

Admission

Adults: \$10.00 | \$9.00 residents

Military (active duty & veterans - ID required): \$6.50

Seniors (60+): \$10.00 | \$6.50 residents

Adults with disabilities: \$6.50

Lunch to follow. Restaurant location to be determined. Please mark your calendar for this event and join your fellow Christ Church family members for an enjoyable day at the Domes.

Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study | beginning on **Wednesday, April 15** at 1pm. Sign-up now to join Pastor Bob in a six-week Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus. Participant Guides will be available for \$14.

Rummage Sale | Saturday, May 16 from 8am–1pm | Christ Church is joining the Bay View Neighborhood Association Rummage Sale. Please continue to bring your donations and put them in the east end of the Music Room. Donation guidelines: "If you wouldn't buy it, don't donate it." Please, NO electronics, TVs, hazardous materials, broken items, oversized furniture, or pianos (nope, no pianos :) See *Newsletter for additional volunteer opportunities or contact Michael or Janet Key.*

Easter Season Services

Palm Sunday

March 29 at Christ Church at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 7pm at Grace Presbyterian Church

Good Friday

April 3 at 7pm at Bay View United Methodist Church

Holy Saturday

ZOOM with Mary of Magdala on April 4 at 9:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2624929093>

On Zoom the Meeting ID is: 2624929093

Phone is: 312-626-6799

Easter Sunday, April 5

Coffee Hour at 8:30am

Worship at 9:30am at Christ Church





Monthly Activity	February	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$8,780	\$32,853
Expenses	\$17,957	\$39,213
Budgeted Amount	\$18,052	\$36,103
<i>Last week's offering: \$1,673</i>		

Christ Church UCC

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact

Pastor Bob at 440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

