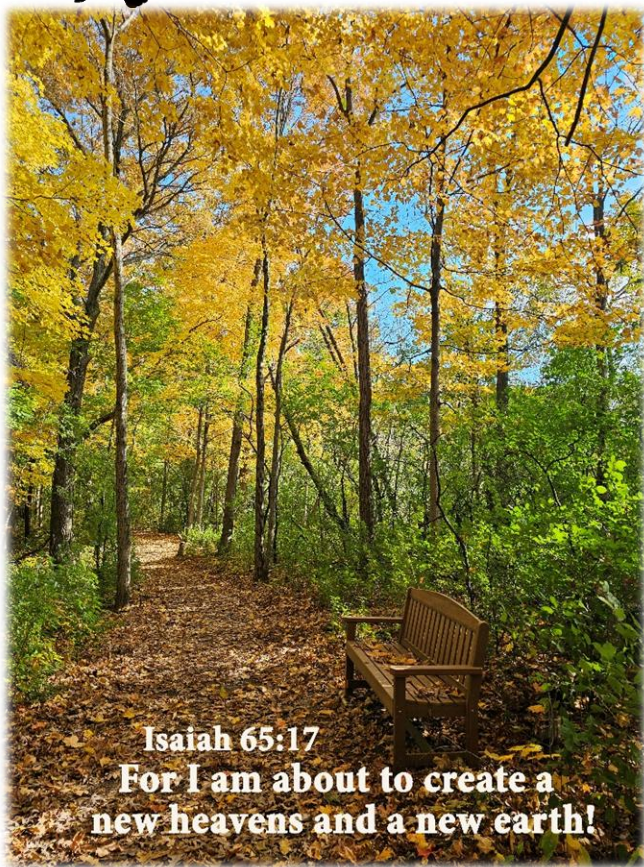


# Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



Isaiah 65:17  
For I am about to create a  
new heavens and a new earth!

Ministers: Every member of this congregation

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Sandra Graham

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Andy Oren

**November 16, 2025**

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*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 Reflection

“Awaken us to the holiness of every land in every time, bearing layer upon layer of peoples who cry from the earth, their stories crushed by conquest of others believing the land belonged only to them.

Bear in us instead a new beginning, born of reverence for every creature birthed by You from the Holy ground of the ball of life You have cast into Your universe of creative becoming” ~David Long-Higgins

“Without darkness, nothing comes to birth, As without light, nothing flowers.” ~May Sarton

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## Announcements and Words of Welcome

### Prelude

*Marching to Zion* - arr. Smith

### Call to Worship

One: We come here to give thanks that God has brought us to this new day.

**Many: Some of us come weary, some of us come with heavy hearts,**

One: Come one and all and drink deeply from the waters of grace and of peace.

**Many: We come ready, with hope in our hearts**

One: You are loved, you are needed. Here you may rest. Here you may find the hope and the power to act out God's love and justice in the world.

**Many: We hear the call of God, beckoning us in these difficult times and we hear the world cry out.**

One: Let us renew our hearts and our minds to answer the call to be healer, to be neighbor, to be people of God.

**Many: We sing aloud for joy, the wonders of God's movement in our midst.**

### \*Opening Hymn

*You are the Salt of the Earth* (see end of bulletin)

### \*Opening Prayer

**Good and gracious God, who surrounds us always with your love and care, we confess that we have not always acted as a loving people. Forgive us for the times when we have been quick with our tongues and slow with our hearts. Encourage us to be your presence in a world full of hurt and need. Give us hope when we think we are not enough to make a difference. Surround us with your compassion when we feel useless. Give us hope to rise to your call, always and everywhere. For it is in you that we have life and breath and being. Amen.**

## **Words of Grace**

Oh ye beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low;  
Who toil along the climbing path with painful steps and slow.  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

## **For the Young and Young at Heart**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

Lord, make me a means of your peace.  
Where there's hatred grown, let me sow your love.  
Where there's injury Lord, let forgiveness be my sword.  
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

**Gift of Music**     *For the Healing of the Nations* - arr. Dietert     Terryl Dietert  
(see hymn #621)

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in the what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and the one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—it's food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

### **Second Reading:** Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher,

when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he' and 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

**Sermon**

"Endurance"

Rev. Sandra Graham

**Hymn of Response**

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

**Hymn #623**

**Prayers of the People**

*(see Weekly Newsletter for details)*

For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns: **Jim & Karen Mohr, Jerry G, Bonnie & Jeff J, Gloria H, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce, Laurel, Bill, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie**

**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

Something in us changes, when we live our lives with a spirit of giving and grace. Something in us changes when we share what we have and who we are.

Something in us changes when we choose generosity as a way of life, without judging or questioning those who need us to be generous. That change is a gift of God, and we find God's love filling our hearts and our lives with every good gift we give freely and without question.

SCAN TO DONATE



### Offertory

*All Who Love and Serve your City* - Routley

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Giving and forgiving God, we present our offerings to you. Among our gifts are the gifts you have already given to us when you called us in the deep darkness of our birth. For the life you have given us, we are so grateful. We give our lives now to you. We give our time, our work, our talent, our treasure. Help us to always be a generous people, sharing broadly our abundance. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

I Am Open

by Holly Near

#### Chorus:

I am open and I am willing;  
For to be hopeless  
Would seem so strange.  
It dishonors those who go before us,  
so lift me up to the light of change.

**1** There is hurting in my family;  
There is sorrow in my town.  
There is panic all across the nation  
There is wailing the whole world round

#### Chorus

**2** May the children see more clearly  
May the elders be more wise  
May the winds of change caress us  
Even though it burns our eyes

**Chorus:**

I am open and I am willing;  
For to be hopeless  
Would seem so strange.  
It dishonors those who go before us,  
so lift me up to the light of change.

**3** Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion  
Give me a desert to hold my fears  
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder  
Give me an ocean to hold my tears

Chorus

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Song**    *Now it's Time to Say Goodbye*  
Now it's time to say goodbye  
To go on out from here  
To live the visions and the dreams  
To scatter hate and fear  
So may the Peace be with you now  
A peace that's filled with Grace  
May it surround all your struggles  
And everything you face.  
And may you find your own way  
To sing out love's own song  
With courage, tears and laughter  
And then to pass it on.  
Yes the time has come to say goodbye.  
May peace be with you now.

**Postlude**

*They'll Know We Are Christians* - Held

# You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

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Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

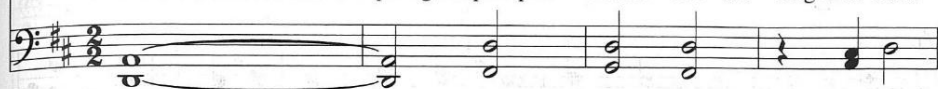
Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

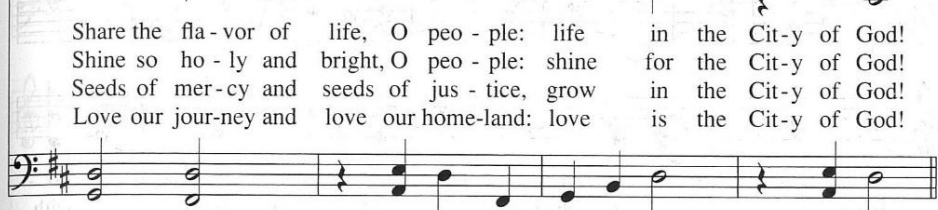
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1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!



During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain  
 Marty Haugen, 1986

**MISSION MINUTES | Infinite Possibilities | Isaiah 65:17-25** | Imagine a world where everyone gets along. A place where the Lord says nothing shall be hurt or destroyed, where even the wolf and the lamb eat together peacefully. This is the vision of a peaceable kingdom that the prophet Isaiah brings to us today. It is a world where only happiness and rejoicing exists. There is no pain nor sorrow.

My friends, such a world is possible because our God is one who holds infinite possibilities. What if we believe the world can change for the better, starting with our own hearts realizing that nothing is ever hopeless.

Take for instance the miraculous story of the wolf of Gubbio, which is found in the 14th-century short story collection, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. The story tells of the saint’s encounter with the good people of Gubbio, Italy, who are being terrorized by a heartless and vicious wolf. The wolf not only steals their food but also their children.

Francis finds the wolf, but before the animal can attack, the saint makes the sign of the cross over its head. The wolf bows down and leans into Francis, who then asks the wolf why the residents of Gubbio are angry with him. The wolf says he is simply hungry.

Francis then makes a deal with the townsfolk to feed the wolf, who he has now named “Brother Wolf.” In return, Brother Wolf promises not to do any harm. For years, wolf and people live in peace, with Brother Wolf roaming the village streets and entering homes without incident. When Brother Wolf dies, Gubbio grieves deeply. The feared enemy had become a dear friend, and all it took was for someone to listen to the one who was misunderstood. All it took was for someone to take note of the struggle beneath the façade of strength to make peace in Gubbio possible.

While just a legend, the story is a moving tale that not only tugs at our heartstrings but invokes a vision of God’s hope for us all—to live in harmony with one another. What if we stopped fearing the wolves in our lives and seek to understand the “enemy” we tend to mistrust and hate all too quickly? Perhaps if we did, we would come to tame not only the wolf roaming about, but the wolf within.

*Limitless God, your love knows no boundaries. It is far-reaching and healing. Help us to see beyond the limitations that our fears and disbelief nurture. Fill our minds with wisdom from above and help us to take a step towards a more peaceable world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen*

| Monthly Activity | October  | YTD       |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Contributions    | \$7,977  | \$104,544 |
| Other Income     | \$16,174 | \$58,983  |
| Total Income     | \$24,151 | \$163,307 |
| Expenses         | \$13,392 | \$164,441 |
| Budgeted Amount  | \$14,867 | \$148,666 |

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or **Rev. John Helt** at 262-622-3165 or JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com

