



Welcome to Christ Church!

A Lighthouse Congregation of the United Methodist Church

1221 Quarrier Street † Charleston, WV 25301

www.ccumwv.org

Christ Church United Methodist is a Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope and Love Serving our Neighbors and the World as the Hands of Christ.

Sunday, March 15, 2026

11:00am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

† - Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. You have chosen to be a part of the Body of Christ that has been worshipping together for 222 years. Welcome! We are glad you are here.

The 11:00am service is broadcast on 1240AM and 95.7FM. The livestream of our service can be found on the Christ Church Facebook page, which is also accessible from our church website: www.ccumwv.org.

All songbooks are located between the seats. Song texts will also be projected on the screens.

Congregational responses are in **bold italic**.

Please see an usher if you need a hearing assist.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. The practice of 40 days of preparation during the season of Lent began in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The number 40 is significant because Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness after his baptism. The liturgical color for Lent is purple.

VOLUNTARY

*"Aria 4" from Partita No. 1.....Jenny Morris, Oboe
George Philipp Telemann*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias

INTROIT

*"My Life Flows On".....Chancel Choir
Robert Lowry
My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
Text is public domain*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:

"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

***We come to this place, to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.***

In the name of Christ,

we accept the invitation to discipleship.

In the name of Christ,

as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

we proclaim the God of Compassion.

In the midst of despair that threatens

to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

we proclaim the God of Hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,

we proclaim the God of Love.

Come, let us worship together

and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE #568

UM Hymnal

"Christ for the World We Sing".....ITALIAN HYMN

† GATHERING PRAYER

***Loving God, you inspire us with love for all persons
and concern for the well-being of all creation.***

***Give us today the strength and courage
to transform the compassion of our hearts
into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.***

***Help us to renounce all forms of violence:
prejudice, unfair allegations, intolerance, and injury.***

***Empower us to live out the caring presence
of the merciful and generous persons we claim to be.***

***We ask all this in the name of Jesus
who came among us to show us the way. Amen.***

WORSHIP NOTES

The text to Hymn #568 was written in 1869 by Rev. Dr. Samuel Wolcott, who was the minister for Plymouth Congregational Church in Cleveland, OH. The hymn was written while on a walk one day after attending a YMCA Convention held in Cleveland on February 7, 1869. Within 20 years, the hymn text appeared in hymnals throughout the world. The tune, ITALIAN HYMN, was composed in 1769 by Italian composer and violinist, Felice de Giardini. It first appeared in print with this text in the *Methodist Hymnal, 1957*. The tune was originally composed for the hymn text, "Come, Thou Almighty King."

The text to the Lenten Hymn of Preparation was written by Presbyterian minister, Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for the World Day of Prayer that had the theme, "Let Our Light Shine." The text is based on Matthew 5: 13-16, Psalm 27: 1 and Psalm 119: 105. The tune, THE GIFT OF LOVE, is an adaptation by the late American composer, Hal Hopson, of the English folk song, O WALY, WALY.

The text to the Preparation for Prayer is based on Psalm 63: 1-4 paraphrased by Scottish hymn writer and Church of Scotland minister, Rev. John Bell, who leads the Iona religious community in Iona, Scotland. The composer of the tune, RESIGNATION, is unknown, but it is an early American folk tune that first appeared in print in Freeman Lewis's songbook, *Beauties of Harmony, 1828*.

† THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share in signs of reconciliation and peace.

† LENTEN HYMN OF PREPARATION

"O God of Light".....GIFT OF LOVE

1. O God of light, may our light shine in ways that serve and honor you.

May we be loving, just and kind, proclaiming Christ in all we do.

**2. God, where your people are oppressed and where they cry out in despair,
Make us your light - to heal, to bless - a witness, Lord, that you are there.**

**3. Christ, when your way is pushed aside by those who trust in wealth and might,
Make us your lamps that we may guide a searching world to your love's light.**

**4. O Spirit, in this world of doubt, we often sin and drift away.
When our own faith is flickering out, shine on our path and light our way.**

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MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN

Dr. Richard Ford

SHARING OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

"O God, You Are My God Alone".....RESIGNATION



O God, you are my God a - lone, whom ea - ger-



- ly I seek, though long - ing fills my



soul with thirst and leaves my bod-y weak. Just



like a dry and bar - ren land a - waits a



fresh - ening shower I long with - in your



house to see your glo - ry and your power.

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WORSHIP NOTES

The text to the anthem is taken from Matthew 11: 28-30. Canadian composer, conductor and publisher, Dr. Larry Nickel, is the chief editor of Cypress Choral Music. He is also the co-founder of the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir located in Vancouver, British Columbia. The music's structure of the anthem is loosely based on the *Prelude in C Major* by J.S. Bach.

The Doxology is a hymn of praise to God that is Trinitarian in nature praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The text is an altered version of the original text from 1674 and was written in 1974 by Rev. Dr. Gilbert Vieira, United Methodist minister in the San Francisco Bay area of California. The tune is a German Catholic tune dating from 1623. The harmony was created in 1906 by the great British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The text to Hymn #396 was written in 1866 by Anglican priest, Rev. John E. Bode for the confirmation of his daughter and two sons. The tune, ANGEL'S STORY, was composed in 1881 by British organist and composer, Henry Arthur Mann. The tune first appeared in *The Methodist Sunday School Tune Book, 1881*.

SILENT PRAYER & 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 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. Amen.***

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir, Jenny Morris, Oboe

*"Come Unto Me".....Larry Nickel
Come unto me, if you're weak and laden, I'll give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and burden is light.
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† GOSPEL LESSON - *Concerning Retaliation*

Matthew 5: 38-42

Bible, Pg. 5

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON - *"Holy Retaliation"*

Dr. Bias

OFFERING OUR TIME, TALENTS, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

OFFERTORY

"Siciliano in G Minor".....J.S. Bach

† DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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† OFFERTORY PRAYER

† HYMN OF RESPONSE #396

UM Hymnal

"O Jesus, I Have Promised".....ANGEL'S STORY

† BENEDICTION

† CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*"Benediction Hymn".....LONDONDERRY AIR
O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your gracious word. Our eyes have seen the glory of salvation prepared for all the people of the world. Now may the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you; and may God lift his countenance upon you and give you blessed peace for now and evermore.*

Text is public domain

† VOLUNTARY

"Voluntary XI".....G.F. Handel

Lent, 2026 - "Take Time to Be Holy"

The Crosses of Jesus Worship Visual

The Worship Arts Committee of Christ Church created a worship visual that will help us focus on our 2026 Lenten theme, "Take Time to Be Holy." Each cross has a unique meaning. As you look from left to right:

The Processional Cross - This cross was created by church member and artist, Chris Dutch. The cross is made of Amboyna wood accented with dichroic glass and stained glass. The pole is oak.

The Old, Rugged Cross - Made from simple lumber, this cross represents the old, rugged cross mentioned in the hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross," which is based on Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 and John 19. The small rope around the middle of the cross could make this a Wrapped Cross, which represents the crucifixion.

Retrome Metal Celtic Cross - This cross is often used in home and office décor and is based on the ancient symbol of the Celtic Cross. Crosses of this type are normally made of cast iron or rustic metal molded in an ornate floral design.

Tau Cross - This cross is often used during the Advent season. The Tau cross, or *crus commissa*, is named after the Greek letter 'tau,' which looks like a Latin letter "T". It was often used by the Franciscan religious order as a symbol of salvation. The colors blue, purple and dark red are penitential colors normally used during the penitential liturgical seasons of the church: Lent and Advent.

Calvary Cross - This type of cross is always seen with a Latin cross mounted above three steps that represents the hill of Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. This cross also contains the letters "IHS." Many people interpret this as "in his service." The letters are actually the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus. This particular cross was used for decades as part of the Men's Bible Class of Christ Church. The cross and matching candlesticks are now part of our church archives.

Jerusalem Cross - The Jerusalem Cross, also known as the Crusader's Cross, is a prominent Christian symbol throughout the world. The symbol originated in the 11th or 12th century and became closely associated with the First Crusade to the Holy Lands. Through the centuries, it has taken on many additional meanings. One tradition suggests that the large cross in the middle represents Christ, and the four small crosses represent Christ's wounds to his hands and feet during the crucifixion. Another interpretation is that the center cross represents Christ and the four small crosses represent the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Calvary Cross - This cross is significant to our church history. This is the cross from the old sanctuary that was destroyed by a fire in 1969. The cross survived the fire and is normally placed on the altar in the church columbarium located at the base of the bell tower. This cross is a "Tribute to Mrs. Roy Reger, Good Cheer Class, 1936."

The Lenten Cross - The round design of this cross symbolizes the encircling love of Christ. The gold cross in the middle is called a Greek cross because the cross has two equal arms that intersect in the middle of the circle. Purple is the liturgical color of Lent.

Celtic Cross - This cross, we believe, belonged to the late Malinda Crothers, who served this church as the Director of Children's Choirs. The Celtic Cross originated in Ireland and Britain during the early Middle Ages. The ring, or 'nimbus' at the center of the cross arms of the cross is a classic symbol of Celtic Christianity that represents the union of the spiritual and material worlds.

Calvary Cross - Unlike the other two Calvary Crosses, which are made of brass, this Calvary Cross is made of wood.

Evangelist Processional Cross - This silver cross contains the symbols of the four gospel writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. At the center of the cross is the symbol of a lamb, representing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Abstract Cross - The sculpted dark bronze cross on the communion table was obtained by the late Rev. Dr. E. David DuBois who served as the Lead Pastor of Christ Church from 1983-1991. The design of the cross is abstract and minimalist with sweeping lines and organic shapes instead of the angular lines associated with the traditional Latin cross. The cross was gifted to Christ Church by the late Richard and Virginia Hanlen and Family in memory of Sarah E. Hanlen, Richard Hanlen's mother.