### Christ Church United Methodisthttp://spartafumc.org/clientimages/45879/methodist%20cross.jpg

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Third Sunday of Lent | March 23rd 2025

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude**  *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S. Bach

\*Call to Worship

One: We gather at the intersection of grace and wholeness,  
**All:** **The crossroads of compassion and justice.**One: Lord, we reach for healing in a world of brokenness,  
**All:** **Release from our places of captivity**.  
One: And You break into our lives, revealing Your kingdom is here,  
**All: In our midst, and so we praise and worship Your wondrous love**.

\***Hymn of Praise** 96

*Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above*

AMSTERDAM

1. Praise the Lord who reigns above  
and keeps his court below;  
praise the holy God of love  
and all his greatness show;  
praise him for his noble deeds,  
praise him for his matchless power;  
him from whom all good proceeds  
let earth and heaven adore.

2. Celebrate th' eternal God  
with harp and psaltery,  
timbrels soft and cymbals loud  
in this high praise agree;  
praise with every tuneful string;  
all the reach of heavenly art,  
all the powers of music bring,  
the music of the heart.

3. God, in whom they move and live,  
let every creature sing,  
glory to their Maker give,  
and homage to their King.  
Hallowed be thy name beneath,  
as in heaven on earth adored;  
praise the Lord in every breath,  
let all things praise the Lord.

Opening Prayer

**God of new beginnings, Your kingdom is like a seed, planted in unlikely places, growing, stretching, transforming all that it touches. Your unstoppable reign shelters, heals, and feeds us.  
Keep us on the crossroads of life, that we may walk in Your way. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; I seek you;  
    my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for

you, as in a dry and weary land where

there is no water.  
**So I have looked upon you in the**

**sanctuary, beholding your power and**

**glory.**  
Because your steadfast love is better than

life, my lips will praise you.  
**So I will bless you as long as I live;  
    I will lift up my hands and call on your**

**name.**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2063%3A1-8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-14845a)]  
    and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
when I think of you on my bed  
    and meditate on you in the watches of the night,  
**for you have been my help,  
    and in the shadow of your wings I sing**

**for joy. My soul clings to you;  
    your right hand upholds me.**

Music of Preparation

*Arise my Soul, Arise* Dan ForrestHannah Sawyer, violin  
The Chancel Choir

**Gospel Reading Luke 13:10-21**

**Sermon**

The cross roads of God's kingdom and the world

Pastor Beth

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession

God of disruption, God of grace, Your kingdom unsettles our world, flipping our assumptions, challenging our priorities, calling us to deeper faith. But we confess—we resist. We hesitate when Your way requires change. We hold tight to what we know, even when it bears no fruit. Yet You do not abandon us. You nurture, You stir, You call again.  
Forgive us, O God. Plant Your kingdom deep in our hearts,  
that we may trust its growth, even when we cannot yet see its harvest. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the Good News, Christ is among us renewing us for life with love. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, Amen.

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.

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Offering

Offertory  *Arioso* J.S. Bach

\*Doxology *A Lenten Doxology*

OLD 100TH

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit who imparts

God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen

\*Offertory Prayer

**\*Sending** 435 *O God of Every Nation* LLANGLOFFAN

1. O God of every nation,

of every race and land,

Redeem your whole creation

with your almighty hand;

Where hate and fear divide us,

and bitter threats are hurled,

In love and mercy guide us,

and heal our strife-torn world.

2. From search for wealth and power

and scorn of truth and right,

From trust in bombs that

shower destruction through the night,

From pride of race and station

and blindness to your way,

Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

3. Lord, strengthen all who labor

that all may find release

from fear of rattling saber,

from dread of war’s increase;

when hope and courage falter,

Lord, let your voice be heard;

with faith that none can alter,

your servants under grid.

4. Keep bright in us the vision of days

when war shall cease,

when hatred and division

give way to love and peace,

till dawns the morning glorious

when truth and justice reign,

and Christ shall rule victorious

o’er all the world’s domain.

\*Benediction

Go now, travelers on the road with Christ!

May the path rise up to meet our feet,

May wisdom keep us from retreat.

May love’s compass point the way,

And hope sustain us day by day.

Along the cross roads, let the blessings we find

Remind us of God’s promise to be with us always. Amen

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in F Major* BWV556 J.S. Bach

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

Liturgist: Dick Lear

Stephen Minister: Shawn Sidles

Golf Cart Drive: Tobin Sidles

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“Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743 (Ps. 150)

“O God of Every Nation”

Words: William W Reid, Jr., 1958

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