

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."
Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens
and forgives our sins.

***OPENING HYMN**

Hear the Call of the Kingdom

*Hear the call of the kingdom Lift your eyes to the King
Let His song rise within you As a fragrant offering
Of how God rich in mercy Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace*

*Hear the call of the Kingdom To be children of light
With the mercy of heaven The humility of Christ
Walking justly before Him Loving all that is right
That the life of Christ may shine through us*

***(Chorus) King of Heaven we will answer the call
We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name***

*Hear the call of the Kingdom To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion In the wonder of the cross
Bringing peace and forgiveness And a hope yet to come
Let the nations put their trust in Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts,
Confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors
as we ought; we have strayed from your commandments.
Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities,
that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

RJ Cramer

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 119:9-16

(L) How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

(ALL) With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

(L) I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

(ALL) Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

(L) With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

(ALL) I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

(L) I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

(ALL) I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

The Gloria Tibi: *Glory be to thee, O Lord

***New Testament Readings: Romans 2:4 Pew Bible pg 914,
Ephesians 4:32, 5:1 Pew Bible pg 951**

Laus Tibi: *Praise be to thee, O Christ

SERMON "A Theology of Relationships and Evangelism"

Pastor Brian

Reference Romans and Ephesians readings

OFFERING – Basket located on table in the rear of the sanctuary.

INVITATION

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes a new life,
it remains just a single grain.

With grateful hearts, let us bring the fruit of our lives to God.

OFFERTORY *O God of Mercy Hear Our Plea*

*O God, we've seen Your faithfulness You brought us from the wilderness
But now our faith is frail and weak O God of mercy, hear our plea
When will You comfort our distress? How long until the promised rest?
We cry to You from deepest need O God of mercy, hear our plea*

CHORUS: *Abba Father, our Redeemer In this barren land be our hope and strength
Until glory we will trust and sing Abba Father, hear our plea Oh, hear our plea*

*We join creation's longing groan To take Your ransomed children home
For then the eyes of all will see The God of mercy hears our plea (CHORUS)*

For then the eyes of all will see The God of mercy hears our plea (CHORUS 2x)

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL

Pastor Brian

**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, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION Pastor Brian

As the high priest blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine
at your holy altar, may our gifts be made perfect through Christ
to glorify you and bless the world. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN *His Mercy Is More*

*What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

*What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

CHORUS: *Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

*What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more (CHORUS)*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Brian

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am,
there will my servant be also." Go in peace to love and serve Christ.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL *Go Now In Peace*

*Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go
now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go
now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God
will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen.*

Amen. Amen.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

*POSTLUDE

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

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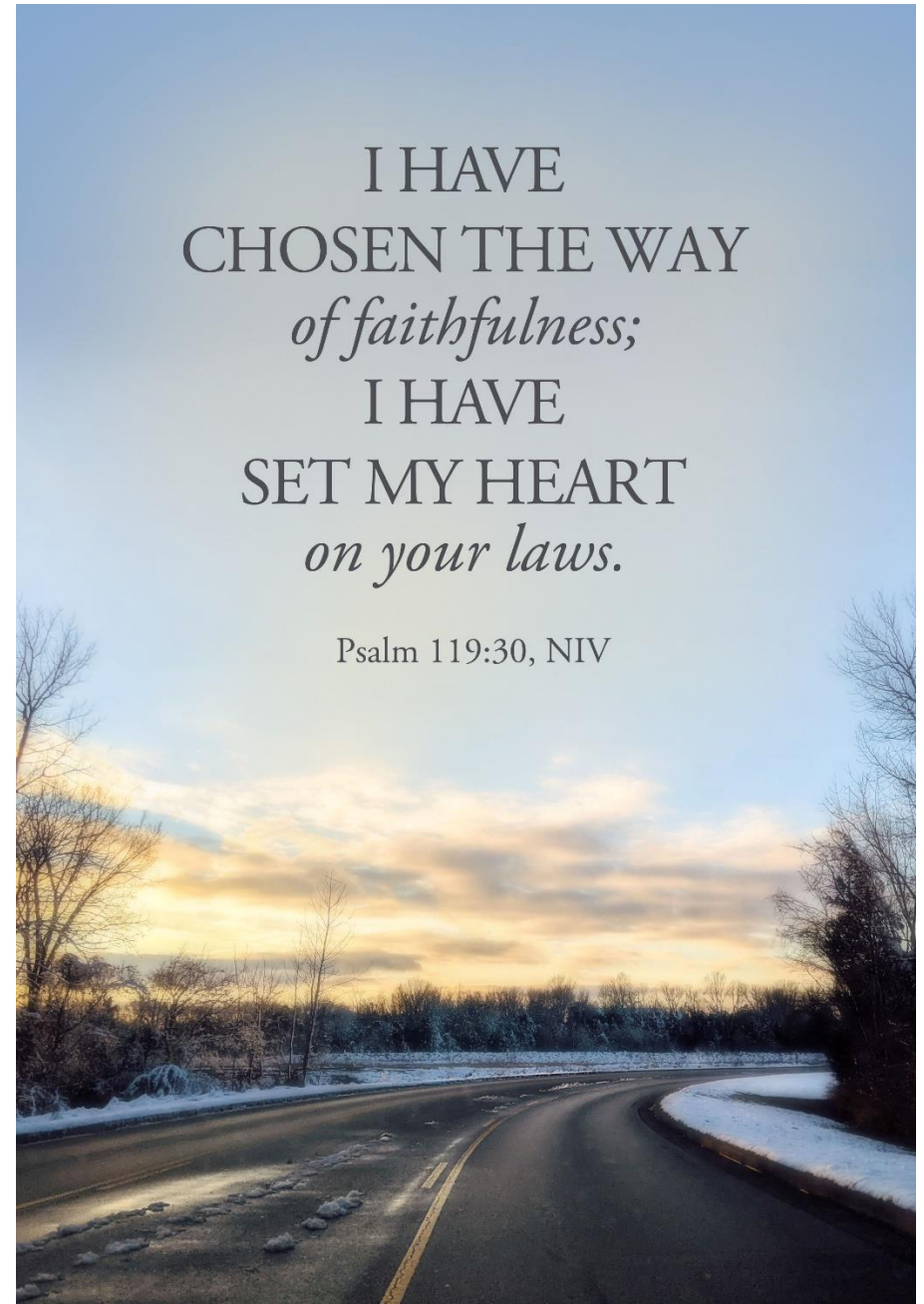
Prayer Concerns

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother)



I HAVE
CHOSEN THE WAY
of faithfulness;
I HAVE
SET MY HEART
on your laws.

Psalm 119:30, NIV





The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 17	5th Sunday in Lent Brunch and Seminar	-Sanctuary, 9am -Social Hall after church
Monday, March 18	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am – 2pm -Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, March 20		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, March 21	Exercise Group	-Office closed
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday Guest Preacher – Dan Smale	-Gathering Room, 10:30am -Sanctuary, 9 am

March Lead Usher – Tom Barr

Altar Flowers

Vase 1 – In loving memory of Ruby and Elmer Frantz from Diann & Family

Vase 2 – available for purchase

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm service

Good Friday – “Son of God” movie in the sanctuary 6:30pm

Easter Dawn – 6:30am (in the sanctuary) with communion

Light Breakfast – immediately following early service

Easter Service – 9:00am – there will be communion

Thank you to Pastor Brian Eichelberger for leading our service today.

The Property Committee walked through the basement and saw the need to clean up/organize or clean out. All committees, please take the time to attend to your areas. Whatever is not removed or organized by April 13th will be thrown out.

Volunteers are needed for the Children’s Church and the nursery during the service.

There is a box on the table by the flower book for your questions for the Town Hall meeting on April 14th. Renee will forward the questions to Pastor Mike so he can prepare to answer your questions at the meeting.

Bishop Randy will be our guest pastor on April 21st. He is also planning to stick around for about an hour after the service to answer any follow-up questions that you may have after the Town Hall meeting.

Pastor Mike will be including information and resources in the bulletin to help us learn more about the EC and come up with questions for our Town Hall meeting on April 14th and the follow-up with Bishop Randy on April 21st.

Krispy Kreme donuts orders are due March 24th. Pickup will be April 2nd 11am to 4pm and 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Christian Education Easter activities:

March 30th Egg hunt at 1pm at the West end Food Pantry

March 31st Easter skit during the 9am worship service