

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*February 25, 2024*

*2nd Sunday in Lent*

*"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Renee Keiper**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) Christ died for our trespasses but was raised for our justification.

**(ALL) Thanks be to God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death***

*What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.*

*What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong.*

*Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command?*

*And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.*

**CHORUS:** *O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal; O sing hallelujah!*

*Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.*

*What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.*

*Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.*

*Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?*

*Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?*

**(CHORUS)**

*Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"*

*And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with him.*

*There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,*

*And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore. (CHORUS 2x)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting in God's promise of salvation,

Let us confess our sin and repent.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.**

**We claim to follow Jesus**

**but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.**

**We profess to be disciples,**

**but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.**

**We affirm the virtue of self-denial,**

**but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for sincere repentance**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news:

God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus

has been raised from the dead for our salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Staci Gower**

**"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**Stephen Christiansen**

**The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 22:23-31**

(L) You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**(ALL) For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

(L) From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**(ALL) The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

(L) All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**(ALL) For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

(L) To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**(ALL) Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

\*The Gloria Tibi: *Glory be to thee, O Lord*  
\*The Gospel: Mark 8:31-38 Pew Bible pg 820  
\*Laus Tibi: *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON "Purpose and Responsibility of the Church" Keith House

FRIENDSHIP PAD  
JOYS AND CONCERNS  
OFFERING  
INVITATION

What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life?  
With all Humility let us make our offering to God,  
trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

OFFERTORY *The Commission*

*See my hands look at my feet It's okay if it's hard to believe  
I have faith you will do greater things It's my time to go but before I leave*

**CHORUS:** *Go tell the world about me I was dead but now I live  
I've gotta go now for a little while But goodbye is not the (end)*

**Verse 2** *Don't forget the things that I taught you I conquered death and I hold the  
keys  
Where I go you will go too someday But there's much to do here before you leave  
(Chorus)*

*End of the journey the end of the road My spirit is with you wherever you go  
You have a purpose and I have a plan I'll make you this promise  
I'll come back again but until then*

**CHORUS 2:** *Go tell the world about me For I was dead but now I live  
Oh I've gotta go now for a little while aye But goodbye is not the end  
(Go tell the world) Go tell them about me (Go tell the world)  
I've gotta go (Go tell the world) For a little while But goodbye is not the end*

\*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 Led by Keith House  
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 Keith House

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant  
You established with Abraham and Sarah,  
which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,  
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love  
and a testament to your enduring promise.  
In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor  
and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *For the Cause*

*For the cause of Christ the King We give our lives, an offering  
'Til all the earth resounds With ceaseless praise To the Son.  
For the cause of Christ we go With joy to reap, with faith to sow  
As many see And many put their trust in the Son.*

**CHORUS:** *Christ we proclaim, The Name above every name:  
For all creation, Ev'ry nation, God's salvation Through the Son!*

*For the King once lifted high To cries of rage, of 'crucify!'  
Endured the cross As every sin was laid. On the Son.  
To the King who conquered death, To free the poor and the oppressed,  
For lasting peace, For life and liberty In the Son. CHORUS*

*Let it be my life's refrain: To live is Christ, to die is gain;  
Deny myself, take up my cross And follow the Son. CHORUS*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Keith House

We came to worship. We go now to serve. We have been given the light. We go now  
to let it shine. We have been blessed by God's love. We go now to share it. We are  
Christ's disciples. We go now to witness to all. Amen.

**\*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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**“What are you doing for Lent?”**  
**-why does this question bug me...**  
**-why doesn't it bug me?...**  
**-what I'm trying to do about it.....**

**Prayer Concerns**

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)

**The Week Ahead**

|                        |                              |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday, February 25    | 2nd Sunday in Lent           | -Sanctuary, 9am          |
| Monday, February 26    |                              | -Office Open 10am – 2pm  |
|                        | Exercise Group               | -Gathering Room, 10:30am |
| Wednesday, February 28 |                              | -Office Open 10am - 2pm  |
|                        | Case for Easter Presentation | -Social Hall, 7pm        |
| Thursday, February 29  |                              | -Office Open 10am - 2pm  |
|                        | Exercise Group               | -Gathering Room, 10:30am |
| Sunday, March 3        | 3rd Sunday in Lent           | -Sanctuary, 9 am         |
|                        | Guest Preacher – Paul Miller |                          |

February Lead Usher – Mitch Hawk

**Altar Flowers**

Vase #1 – In loving memory of Jackie Kile from her family  
 Vase #2 is available for purchase.

Altar Flowers are \$15 per vase for 2024.

**Thank you to Keith House for leading our service today.**

**Pastor Mike would like to invite anyone interested to a Bible discussion group** that has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 12:30pm, at Papa Al's on Delaware Ave in Palmerton. A chapter will be chosen for you to read in advance. Then the discussion will take place at the restaurant while you enjoy a delicious meal.

**On Wednesdays, at 1:00pm Pastor Mike leads a Bible Study** People's EC Church is located at 216 Wagner Street, Lehighton.

**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 mid-April will be thrown out.

**Beer, Brats and Breakfast (the men's group) will meet on the 2nd Saturday of** the month in the social hall from 9:00am – 11:00am starting in March 9th.

**The 'Case for Easter' presentations will take place on Wednesdays in the social** hall at 7pm. February 28, March 6 and March 13.

**CIA is hosting the Easter Lily Sale again this year. The cost is \$13 and the** deadline for orders and payment is March 3rd. Order forms are on the table by the flower book. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew's CIA and leave them in the basket on the desk in the office.

**Laymen's Fellowship is hosting a Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser. Orders can** be placed March 3rd through March 24th, pickup day is April 2nd, 12:00pm – 4:00pm. \$12 per dozen for original glazed donuts, \$9 per ½ dozen choices: chocolate iced glazed, raspberry filled glazed, glazed kreme filled or glazed lemon filled. Orders can be given to any Laymen's Fellowship member.