

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) The message of the cross sounds foolish to the world;

(ALL) But to us it is the power of God!

(L) We proclaim the scandal of Christ crucified.

(ALL) The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,

And the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.

OPENING HYMN *You're the Word of God the Father (Across the Lands)

You're the Word of God the Father From before the world began;

Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet Has been fashioned by Your hand.

All creation holds together By the power of Your voice.

Let the skies declare Your glory; Let the land and seas rejoice!

CHORUS *You're the Author of creation; You're the Lord of ev'ryone;*

And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels, Came to seek and save the lost,

And exchanged the joy of heaven For the anguish of a cross.

With a prayer You fed the hungry; With a word You calmed the sea;

*Yet how silently You suffered That the guilty may go free! **CHORUS***

With a shout You rose victorious, Wresting vict'ry from the grave,

And ascended into heaven, Leading captives in Your way.

Now You stand before the Father, Interceding for Your own;

*From each tribe and tongue and nation, You are leading sinners home! **CHORUS 2x***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly;

we are still weak. In the cross of Christ,

we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins,

trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships
with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.**

**Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.**

Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.

Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and coming again,

we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and

with one another! **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Dora Tartar

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 19

(L) The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

(ALL) There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

(L) which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

(ALL) The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

(L) the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

(ALL) Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

(L) Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

***The Gospel: John 2:13-22** Pew Bible pg. 863

***Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON “Jesus, Even Bigger Than You Thought!” Pastor Paul Miller
Mark 9:2-13 Pew Bible pg 820 - 821

FRIENDSHIP PAD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERING

INVITATION

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling.
It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration,
A place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs.
Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERTORY *My Worth Is Not In What I Own (At the Cross)*

*My worth is not in what I own; Not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love At the cross.
My worth is not in skill or name; In win or lose, in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed At the cross.*

REFRAIN: *I rejoice in my Redeemer—Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other; My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

*As summer flowers we fade and die; Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us At the cross.
I will not boast in wealth or might, Or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ At the cross. (Refrain)*

*Two wonders here that I confess: My worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed – my ransom paid At the cross. (Refrain 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION See insert

***THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL** Pastor Paul

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 Paul

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments,
to love only you, not worshiping the things of this world;
to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something they possess.
Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous,
giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of
Christ in this 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 Paul

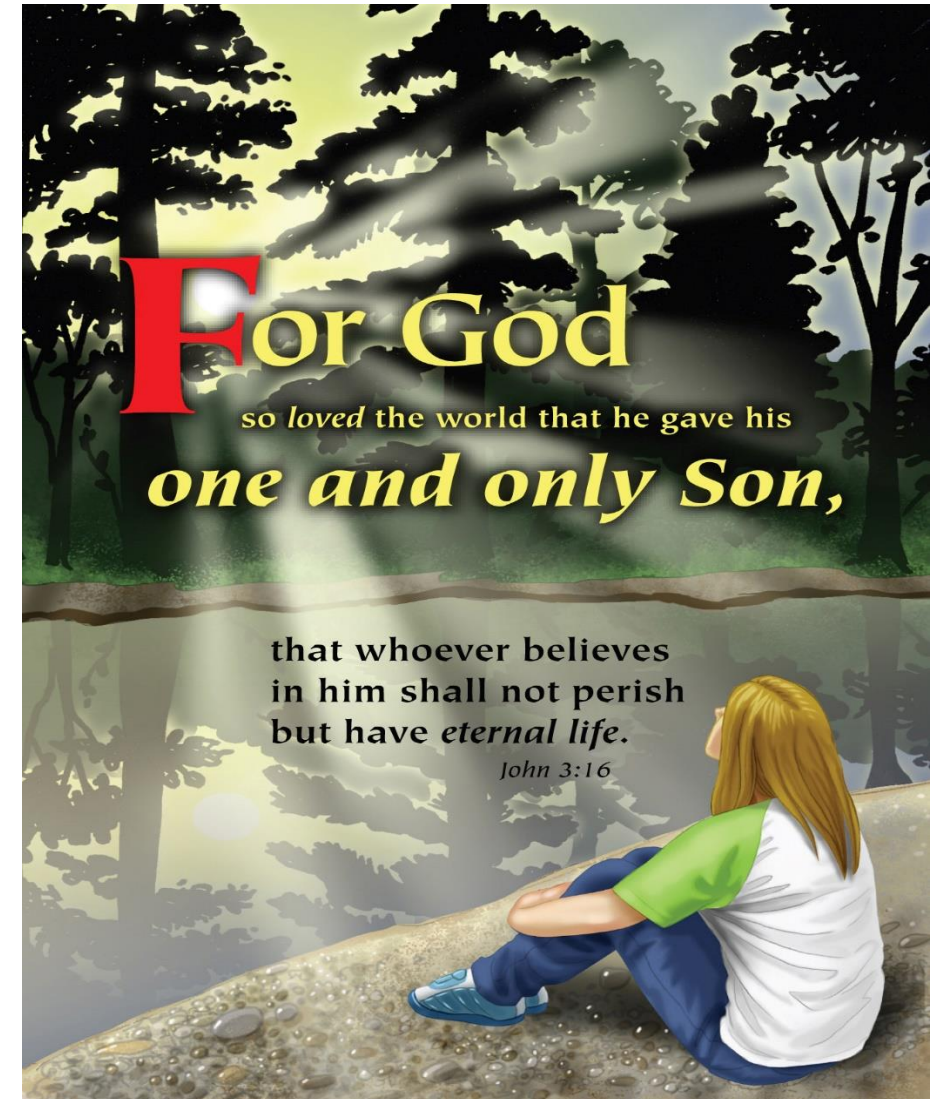
In the Lenten week ahead, find time and space to listen for God's glory
as it is spoken in the world around you.

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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Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

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The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 3	3rd Sunday in Lent	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, March 4		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, March 6		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Case for Easter Presentation	-Social Hall, 7pm
Thursday, March 7		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	First Thursday Game Day	-Social Hall, 12:30pm
Sunday, March 10	4th Sunday in Lent	-Sanctuary, 9 am
	Guest Preacher – Mike Snedeker	

March Lead Usher – Tom Barr

Altar Flowers

Vase #1 – Happy Birthday George from Diane, Jenny Rose, Zach, Abby, Wade & Harper
 Vase #2 Happy Birthday Brianna and Zachary from the Huber Family

Prayer Concerns

John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Leanne Sitler's brother Bobby, Tom and Lee Byrne,
 Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden,
 Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Fable,
 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)

Thank you to Pastor Paul Miller 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. 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 today. 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.

March 17th Pastor Brian Eichelberger will be our guest pastor. He will talk about evangelism and relationships during his sermon. Following the service there will be a luncheon in the social hall when Pastor Brian will continue his seminar.