

**SCHOENBRUNN COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
*We are Christ called, Christ centered, Christ sent...loving all.*

2200 EAST HIGH AVE, NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663  
(Phone) 330.339.1940 (Website) scmchurch.org

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 26th, 2023**

Ministers	All of Us!
Pastor	Rev. Ben Lippert
Director of Music/Organist	Angie Miller
Elder of the Month	Steve Pasquinelli
Trustee of the Month	Kathy Cummings
Media Technician	Denny Drumm
Media Production	Paula Drumm

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\*\*\*\*\***Watchword for the week: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."- Psalm 130:5**  
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WORDS OF WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY HYMN

MISSION OF THE MONTH UPDATE- FOSTERING LOVE LEANNA KOTASEK

\*PASSING THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

PRELUDE

\*HYMN "ABIDE WITH ME; FAST FALLS THE EVENTIDE" MBW#807

CONFIRMATION CREDOS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

JOHN 11:17-45

PRAYER

OFFERING

\*OFFERTORY "PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW" MBW# 817  
*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!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**MERCIFUL SAVIOR,**  
**TEACH US TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS AND TURN OUR TEARS OF PASSION INTO ACTIONS OF MERCIFUL COMPASSION. AMEN**

Children's Lesson/ Joyful Noise

\*HYMN "BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS " MBW #329

MESSAGE "Jesus on Trial: The Final Witness"

\*HYMN "GOD SENT HIS SON " MBW #706

BENEDICTION

\*CHIME

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Please stand, as able.*

*† Reprinted with permission from "Moravian Daily Texts 2020" © 2019*

*†† Lyrics from: <https://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/nlb/special-occassions/special-epiphany-a-b-c.html>*

## Prayers of the People

**Church and World:** For all families and churches of Tuscarawas County; for the ministries of our Eastern District and Northern Province; for the shared work of the worldwide Moravian Unity; for all who risk their lives for the gospel; for refugees and victims of natural disasters and violence around the world and for those who work to provide shelter, healing, and peace. We think especially of the people of Ukraine.

**Military and Families:** Carter Baker, Adam Porter, Bret Penik, Kyle Springer, Nathan Zinser, Anna Sandoval, Ben Miller.

**Healing, Comfort and Peace:** Jim Karcher, Joan Beorn Missy Martin, Karen Chaney, Doris Gardner, Georgia Sweaney, Dixie Lewis, Clint Svancara, Ginny, East Palestine, Turkey and Syria, Tim Northrop, Lynn Reichmann. Sr., Justin and Alyssa, Tim Reynolds, Melinda Knisley, Steph Heavlin, Amanda Lippert Rev. Steve Patrick, Evelyn Bennett, Zander Kerpatrick, Bill Martin, James Leslie, Bob McCoy, Tyler Cox, Callie Reynolds, Eric Fondriest, Miracle Knight, Fred Sullivan, Robert Carrier, Steve Pasquinelli, Evelyn Bennett, Janet West, , Tammie Reynolds, Tammy Bennett, COVID-19 Victims.

**Families Bereaved:** Jim Menapace, Mary Baker, Jane Rosetti, Gary Beamer, Rev. Adam Spaugh, Doug Stafford, Tyre Nichols, Brayden Wrana.

**Homebound Members and Friends:** Lynne Capretta (Northwood Inn), Janet West (New Dawn).

To add prayers please contact Prayer Chain: 330-339-1940 or [pastor@scmchurch.org](mailto:pastor@scmchurch.org).

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## Week 5- The Trial of Jesus

Bailiff: Here ye! Here ye! Please rise for the honorable judge from the highest court of the heavenly realm.

(Judge enters and sits)

Judge: Thank you. Please be seated. Court is now in session.

Prosecutor: Your honor, I would like to make a motion for a summary judgment. We have wasted enough time for these fine people on the jury. They deserve to go home and be with their families.

Defense Attorney: I object your honor. This is one again another episode of court theatrics by the prosecutor. I only have one witness left and then we would be happy to turn the case over to jury deliberations.

Prosecutor: What witness is that?

Defense Attorney: I would like the accused to be able to speak for themselves today. I would like to call Jesus of Nazareth to the stand.

Prosecutor: You can't be serious? The last time that guy was a witness in a case his testimony was so underwhelming that it led to his death. By all means, bring him out.

Your honor, I was a bit hasty with my motion. I will withdraw it and let the defense proceed.

Judge: Very Well. The defense calls Jesus of Nazareth to the stand.

(Jesus of Nazareth appears)

Defense Attorney: Could you state your name for the court?

Jesus: Jesus of Nazareth.

Defense Attorney: What is your occupation?

Jesus: I am a teacher and a carpenter.

Defense Attorney: Sir, you are notorious for being a tough person to interview. Why do you think that is?

Jesus: I think many have expectations of what they want me to say. They think I should follow a script and be a Messiah in their image. That is idolatry.

Those that truly seek me out to hear what I have to say and allow themselves to be shaped by those words have a much different experience.

Defense Attorney: Jesus, you did a lot in your life. You performed many miracles. You healed the sick and raised the dead. You developed a large following of dedicated believers in just a few years. That is an impressive resume. Did you set out to accomplish all that you hoped to?

Jesus: I do not look at my past accomplishments as if they are a trophy case. I focus on the present moment. God is still speaking.

Prosecutor: Your honor, the witness is evading the question.

Judge: Jesus, could you answer the question, please?

Jesus: I will elaborate. God is still speaking. People always want prescriptive answers for me that will last for all time. I will always crave the presence of the people I encounter more. I get far more out of what I can share with others.

Prosecutor: Quit stalling, ask him the question we have all been waiting 5 weeks to hear.

Judge: Prosecutor, this will be the last time I will be warning you to bite your tongue during the defense's line of questioning.

Prosecutor: Sorry, your honor.

Defense Attorney: Let's get right to what the defense is so impolitely alluding to. Were you killed for political reasons by the Roman government and the very people you sought to save?

Jesus: I was. I asked my father to remove that cup from me, but when he decided it was my duty and no one else's, I drank from that cup of suffering willingly.

Defense Attorney: Did you die and raise yourself from the dead 3 days later?

Jesus: I believe that is for the jury to decide.

Defense Attorney: Jesus that response won't do. I need more than that. I need facts. I need incontrovertible proof that you are who you say you are.

Jesus: You will not get anything more out of me. A Truth that you can feel in your heart is greater than a truth you can see with your eyes or the truth you can hear with your ears. I will never take that away from my believers.

Defense Attorney: I respect your faith Jesus, but this is a court of law. What more can you tell us about your Resurrection?

Jesus: For some just feeling the presence of God's love in their hearts will be enough. For others, they could see the nails, look upon the Cross, see the Risen body, and it would never be enough. There is nothing that God could do to show them that the Divine is real.

Defense Attorney: I'm worried that the further this conversation goes it will only lead to more questions from the jury. I fear the prosecutor is right and this was a mistake to put you on the stand. Your honor, I have no further questions.

Judge: Prosecutor, your witness.

Prosecutor: Thank you, your honor. Jesus, what was your occupation before you got into the teaching and healing business?

Jesus: I was a carpenter just like my father.

Prosecutor: Do you know any others that went from the carpentry business to the Messiah business?

Jesus: No, None at all. Carpentry was a very useful learning experience. I learned that you have to pay attention to every grain on a piece of wood in the same way that my father above must watch over every sheep intently.

Prosecutor: Jesus, you understand that this trial is not personal. I think you are a great guy and I really respect your moral philosophy, despite the fact it is completely unrealistic for selfish human beings to follow. I just don't think you came back from the dead. It just defies common sense. No Hard feelings Jesus?

Jesus: I love all my children equally. Even on the days, when they can't see the light, despite the sun staring them directly in the eyes.

Prosecutor: What about this heaven and hell business? Many of your closest followers that walk this earth tell me that I am condemned. I can read your book

every day, dedicate my life to the service of others, and If I do not accept you as my Lord and Savior it is all for naught. How is that fair? How is that justice?

Jesus: That is an excellent question. I think you would be surprised by the many humble hearts you would meet in the heavenly kingdom. My father condemns no one on this earth to hell. It is sins of self-righteousness that lead others down a path that does not lead to the heavenly father.

Has viewing me as Plato and Aristotle brought you happiness?

Prosecutor: Sir, I want to remind you that this case has nothing to do about me. No one here cares about me. This trial centers on whether you came back from the dead or not. Are you the one true Messiah or should we wait for another?

Jesus: Your wrong, my child. I care about you and what you think. It matters to me.

Prosecutor: Why would I matter to you? I have done nothing but condemn you. You should hate me.

Jesus: I did not come to this world to condemn anyone. I only came to save those who have lost their way.

Prosecutor: After all this fighting and doubting, you would still save me?

Jesus: I would go to the ends of the earth for any of my children. You know in your heart how deep my love can go. I didn't just lay down my life for the world. I laid down my life for you.

Prosecutor: Wow, I am truly touched. Your honor, I have something to say.... I um, I um, (loses courage) I have no further questions. The prosecution rests.

Judge: Very well. We now turn the case of the resurrection of Jesus over to you the jury. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have heard from many esteemed witnesses throughout this trial, including the accused. This is a heavenly court and not a human court so there is no foreman or long deliberations.

I will simply ask those of you that believe the story of the defense that Jesus rose from the grave and conquered sin and death to please rise. Those of you that do not believe the evidence presented to you may remain seated.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what is your verdict? Please stand if you are a believer in the resurrection.

(Wait for people to stand)

(Prosecutor sits like a grumpy child)

Judge: Is there anyone in the courtroom who would like to change their vote?

(Coughs the words prosecutor)

Prosecutor: I want to but I just can't.

Jesus: I believe you can my child.

(Prosecutor fervently prays)

Prosecutor: Lord?

Jesus: My child, it is I.

(Big hug between Jesus and the prosecutor)

Prosecutor: Your honor, I would like to change my vote and move that the charges against Jesus be dropped immediately. I am a believer after all.

Judge: Very well prosecutor. The charges against Jesus have been dropped. Jesus, is it time we let him in on it?

Prosecutor: Let me in on what?

Judge: This case was never about putting Jesus on trial. It was about finding out if you would finally stop running away from the love that he gives you. Your faith is what was really on trial.

Prosecutor: Jesus, you sly dog you. Your honor, I'm so glad I am a changed man. It is time for me to head out and hit the old dusty trail.

Judge: Not so fast prosecutor. Jesus' forgiveness may be unconditional, but mine is not. I sentence you to two days of diaper changing in the church nursery and silent prayer.

Prosecutor: Please, your honor anyplace but the church nursery. Prison, Solitary confinement, make me watch the Kardashians on an endless loop. Anything but that. I beg of you.

Judge: It will do you some good. Bailiff and attendants, please escort the prosecutor to the nursery where he can pay his debt to society.

(Attendants are children. Prosecutor sees the kids and starts to feel relieved.)

Prosecutor: These sweet and innocent kids would never punish me. Right kids?

Kids: Think again!

(The kid's duct tape the prosecutor's mouth shut and escort him out)

Judge: This court is adjourned. The defendant is free to go. This case is now closed.

(Gavel bangs)

Bailiff: Please Rise, for the honorable judge. The court is no longer in session.