

Christ Church United Methodist

February 22, 2026

(in-person) 9 am
(live-streamed & in - person) 11:15 am

First Sunday in Lent Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

Go To Dark Gethsemane
Matthew Vanover, organ

arr. David Cherwien

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Amy Chapman

Leader: Gather together before the Lord to get a fresh start, to have our slates wiped clean. God holds nothing against you. Hold nothing back from God!

People: When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans, the pressure never let up, and the energy of my life dried up.

Leader: We gather here to let all of that out; to come clean about our failures to God.

People: Suddenly, the pressure is gone. My guilt disappears. Our sin disappears. Thanks be to God. This is what Jesus does: Jesus uses his power to set people free.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Lift High the Cross

Hymn 159

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]**

**Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Hymn 160

Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Hymn 160

Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

◇ 9:00

Be Still and Know
Laudate

Victor C. Johnson

‡ 11:15

Grace
Chancel Choir Tenors and Basses

Mark Hayes

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 95

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.

*SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-11

(9:00) John Derr
(11:15) Karen Buckman

SERMON

The Stuff of Stars

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

CALL TO PRAYER

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Hymn 172

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

Hymn 269

As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Postlude on CRUCIFER
Matthew Vanover, organ

Andrew Carter

◇ Ben Williams, conductor; Mark Benz, piano

*indicates standing as you are able

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Daniel Light, piano

Order of Worship Notations:

Call to Worship: *Inspired by Psalm 31, The Message*

This Morning

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by the Seekers Sunday School Class in memory of five special members who died in 2025. Connie Alley, Jane Crawford, Carlita Canfield, Jim Cox and Sue Williams.

Announcements

Lenten Study | Beginning February 24 and 25

Tuesdays at 10 am **OR** Wednesdays at 6 pm | Room 250

Join **Pastor Eric** for this **weekly** Lenten Study, using Adam Hamilton's latest book, *Why Did Jesus Have to Die*.

Register at ccum.net/classes.

Create Your Own W.D.J.D. Bracelet | Sundays during Lent | Fellowship Hall

Congregants of **all ages are invited** to make and take a bracelet as a reminder to ask the question throughout this Lenten season, "**What Does Jesus Do?**"! We hope that you will stop by!

Easter Lilies

Honor a loved one, past or present, by purchasing a \$15 lily that will decorate our church for Easter. Visit ccum.net/lent to purchase by Sunday, March 22 or contact Katie Banas at katie@ccum.net with questions.

Community Easter Event | March 28 | 10 am - 12 pm

All ages are invited to join the fun, as we move from the slow walk of Lent into the sprint of Holy Week to the empty tomb of Easter! Put on your best running shoes and **come ready to participate** in races with your friends or hop over to the special pre-K obstacle course challenge. Want to come but don't feel up to running? No problem! Make a floral "Resurrection bouquet", enjoy the sweetness of new life at Farmer Steve's traveling petting zoo and meet the Easter bunny! See you at the starting line! Ready? Set? Go!

Pastor Eric's Fall 2026 River Rhine Journey | Trip dates: October 25 – November 1, 2026

Pastor Eric Bryant invites you on this unique opportunity for Christian community, spiritual growth, and shared exploration on this **Classical Rhine River Cruise**. Sailing through the breathtaking scenery of the Rhine Valley, you will have the privilege of traveling with **Tod Bolsinger**, noted author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and *Tempered Resilience*, who will share insight about **leadership, faith, and navigating change** in today's world. If you are interested in the trip, you can pick up an informational brochure at the front desk or contact Katie Banas, at katie@ccum.net, for a digital copy.

Belong! A Christ Church Connect Class | Four-week, in person class

Beginning today, through March 15 | 10 am | Café

Led by Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant and Rev. Amy Chapman, Belong! is for anyone interested in **learning more about Christ Church** and to deepen your understanding of **what it means to be a United Methodist**. This class is open to everyone, but is most appropriate for those considering membership or who have joined in recent years.

Register at ccum.net/belong; registration is encouraged but not required.

Pass It On Kids Sale | March 20 and 21

This semi-annual sale is coming soon! Shop for clothing, toys, books, shoes, furniture, equipment, maternity clothes and more! 40% of all proceeds are donated to mission projects selected by the POKS Committee. To sign up to **volunteer or consign**, visit ccum.net/passiton. Questions? Text Whitney Fontaine: 502-797-7175.

Sanctuary Concert Series presents **The Concordia Choir**

Tuesday, March 3 | 7 pm | Sanctuary

Under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, the **renowned 70-voice** Concordia Choir returns during their 2026 tour. Join us for an **eclectic program of traditional and contemporary choral works** presented by one of America's finest a cappella choirs. A freewill offering will benefit the University of Louisville Wesley Foundation.

Volunteers Needed - Due to the expected concert attendance, we are looking for greeters like we have for our Christmas concerts. If you are able to help, please contact Mark Coile at mark@ccum.net.

Vacation Bible School - Rainforest Falls | June 15 - 18 | 9 am - 12 pm

Kids will plunge into a **lifelong adventure** of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. To **register or volunteer**, visit ccum.net/vbs.

Summer 2026 Mission Trip Opportunities | Register at ccum.net/missions

Nashville Mission Trip | June 21 - 26

Students will serve alongside local organizations working with children, senior adults, literacy programs, anti-poverty initiatives, and community gardens—building relationships while growing in faith. Open to all youth, grades 6 - 12!

Dominican Republic Mission Trip | June 30 - July 7

We'll travel to Santiago de los Caballeros to serve with GO Ministries on VBS, field days, light construction, and relational ministry. This all-ages trip is a powerful way to serve, grow, and see God at work globally.

Welcome Ministry Volunteers

We are looking to significantly **increase our welcoming presence** on Sundays and during special events, and we need you! Please consider becoming a part of this important ministry - you can **sign up to learn more** at ccum.net/welcometeam. There will be a kickoff luncheon in March, so stay tuned for more details!

A.W.E. Open Art Studio | Last Wednesday of the Month | 6 - 8 pm | Art Room

Join the A.W.E. (Art | Wonder | Experience) Ministry for Open Studios on select Wednesday evenings! **Everyone**, ages 11-111+ **is welcome** and childcare is available! Feel free to bring your works in progress or try something new. No experience necessary! **Next Open Studio date: February 25.**

Snacks in Sacks Packing Event | Saturday, March 7 | 9 - 10:30 am | Fellowship Hall

Join us for a Snacks in Sacks **bag-filling event** that will assist our neighbors experiencing homelessness and hunger. The assembled sacks will support **Jacob's Ladder Outreach** and **Louisville Outreach for the Unsheltered**. This is a great service opportunity for all ages and for families to serve together. Sign up at ccum.net/snacks.

SAM Luncheon and Program | Monday, March 9 | 11:30 am | Fellowship Hall

Rev. Robin Jennings will explore **how God speaks to us** personally and directly through the soul, drawing on themes from his latest book, *Expressions of the Soul: Celtic Christianity and Life with God*. After the program, we'll enjoy a boxed lunch from Gracious Plenty. The program is free and lunch is \$15. Register at ccum.net/sam by Friday, March 6 at 12 pm.

Scout Fundraiser - Chili Cook-Off | March 15 | After the 11:15 am Service

Enter your best recipe and compete - **All cooks are welcome!**

Prefer to taste-test? For \$5, you'll get unlimited samples, 3 votes to crown your

favorites and a hearty lunch. Donations will be taken at the door. There are two ways to join the fun: **Register** to submit your chili at ccum.net/chili and/or register to attend lunch and the taste-testing at ccum.net/scoutlunch. Bring your appetite, your competitive spirit and maybe a glass of milk - it's going to be deliciously spicy!