January 22, 2023

Epiphany 3 Communion Service

For this service, Christ Church is using BCP 2019.

The congregational responses are in **bold italic** print.

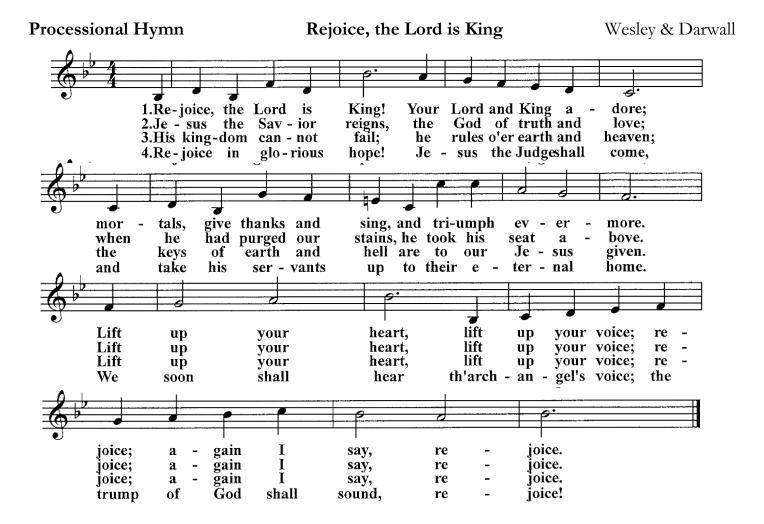
Please join us in saying the responses.

Please silence your cell phones.

Vision Statement: "Our Culture"

As a church of Jesus Christ, Christ Church Westshore exists to help build a great community for all people through a movement of the gospel that brings personal conversion, discipleship in community, meeting needs in the neighborhood, and cultural renewal / revival to the Westshore and, through it, to the world.

"Know - Grow - Serve!"



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THE WORD OF GOD

I will make you as a light for the nations.

That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

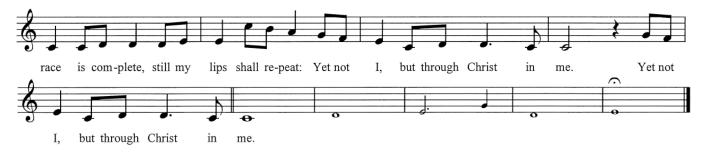
Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31 ESV

Song of Praise

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me





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The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Children's Blessing & Prayer

The New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 4:1 – 13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:1 – 9 (*Please pray responsively by half verse*)

1. Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

O LORD my God, you have become exceedingly glorious; you are clothed with majesty and honor.

- 2. You clothe yourself with light as with a garment,* and spread out the heavens like a curtain.
- 3. You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters,*

 and make the clouds your chariot and walk upon the wings of the wind.
- 4. You make winds your messengers,*

 and flames of fire your ministers.
- 5. You laid the foundations of the earth,*

 that it never should move at any time.
- 6. You cover it with the deep as with a garment;*

 the waters stand above the hills.
- 7. At your rebuke they fled;* *at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.*
- 8. They went up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath,* even to the place you had appointed for them.

9. You have set bounds for them which they shall not pass;* neither shall they again cover the earth.

Sequence Hymn

Thy Strong Word

Hymn 381, v 2

Verse 2

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death, Broke the light of thy salvation, breathed thine own life-giving breath.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to thee whose light doth send! Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

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The people stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Matthew 15:15 – 22

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn

Thy Strong Word

Hymn 381, v 3

Verse 3

Thy strong word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to thee whose light doth send! Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

The Sermon

Rev. Gene Sherman

Contagious Christianity - "Questioning Evangelism"

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand

of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

From the rising of the sun to its setting let us pray to the Lord:

That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

That the church may discover again that unity which is the Father's will:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

That the whole creation, groaning in travail, may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may rest in peace and rise in glory:

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way, to the mercy and protection of God. *Amen.*

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements / Birthdays / Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Drew Jackson 1/23 David Godfray 1/25 Erin Litzler 1/28

Question for Week 4

The New City Catechism

How and why did God create us?

God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

(Genesis 1:27)

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Offertory

Doxology Hymn 380, v. 3

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 HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who took on our mortal flesh to reveal His glory; that he might bring us out of darkness and into his own glorious light.

Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people sit or stand.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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 and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed once for all upon the cross.

Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

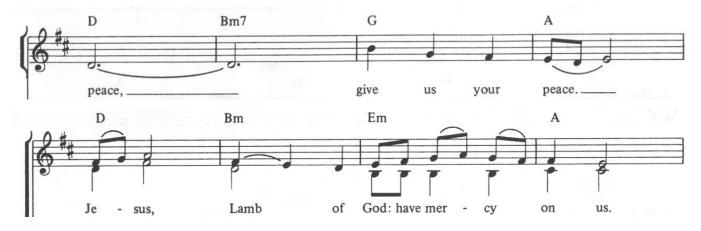
We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music (Please join in)

Jesus, Lamb of God





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Here is Love

Verse 1

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

Verse 2

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Verse 3

Let me, all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only,
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see;
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

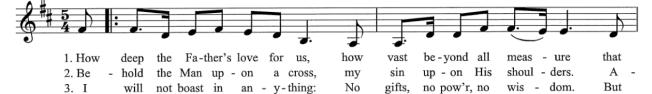
Verse 4

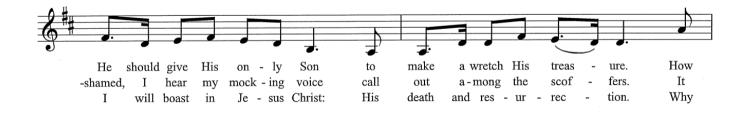
In Thy truth Thou dost direct me By Thy Spirit through Thy Word, And Thy grace my need is meeting, As I trust in Thee, my Lord. Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring Thy great love and pow'r on me, Without measure, full and boundless, Drawing out my heart to Thee.

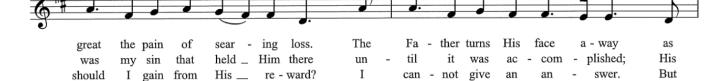
Words: William Rees; v. 3-4 attr. to William Williams; tr. By William Edwards, pub. 1900. Music: "Cymraeg"; Robert Lowry, 1876. Public Domain.

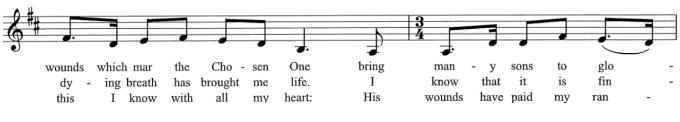
How Deep the Father's Love

Stuart Townend











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Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

The people respond: Amen.



Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE – The CCW Shrove Tuesday Feast will be at 5:30 pm on **Tuesday**, **February 21**st in our Fellowship Hall. We will offer Tony Ahern's special pancakes (with all the fixings), bacon/sausage, non-alcoholic beverages, and more! We will also have a talent show. If you are interested in participating, please call the office. Each act will be no longer than 3-5 minutes. More details to follow!

Student Ministry Resumes! – Students in grades 5-12 are invited to a short time of Bible study on Sundays after the 10:30 service, beginning on January 22nd. Grab a coffee hour snack and join us from 12:05-12:45 for discussion and prayer. Contact Rachel Kurak or Jeff Davis with any questions.

Flower Calendar for 2023 – The 2023 flower calendar is available in the narthex. Please sign up for any of the dates you would like to donate altar flowers for next year. Note, we will not have any flowers during the season of Lent and those dates are not included in the calendar.

Offering Envelopes – 2023 offering envelopes are available in narthex. If you did not have envelopes last year and would like them for 2023, please let the office know. Note: Your envelope number may have changed from last year. Please do not use envelopes from 2022.

Automated Offerings: Updates may be needed!

- If you have a check mailed from your bank, please update the mailing address to: 726
 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake, OH 44012
- If you have set-up scheduled, online gifts from your checking account or credit card, please update the Fund from 2022 Offerings to 2023 Offerings. (You may need to cancel the 2022 gift and create one for 2023 Offerings). If you need assistance, please contact Sybil.

WINTER/SPRING 2023 LITTLE CHURCHES

Bayvon Lake Group at 5 PM – Begins 1/22 (Bi-Weekly) Led by Skip & Laura Sant Meets at various homes in Avon Lake, Avon, and Bay Village. This Little Church will be studying Season 3 of "The Chosen." They watch an episode of the series and discuss it. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Laura Sant at sant.lsaj@gmail.com or 440.387.7968. (Less Commitment)

Men's Little Church Tuesdays at 7 AM – Begins 1/24 (12 weeks) in the Fall and (11 Weeks) in the Spring. Led by Gene Sherman.

This Little Church is for men on the go and is easily accessible via **Zoom**. This year we will be studying God's Word through the book "**Gentle and Lowly, Pt. 2**" by Dane Orlund. Christians can easily feel that Jesus is perpetually disappointed and frustrated, maybe even close to giving up on them. They know what Christ has done for them—but who is he? How does he feel about his people amid all their sins and failures? In Matthew 11, Jesus describes himself as "gentle and lowly in heart," longing for his people to find rest in him. This book reflects on his words, diving deep into Bible passages that speak of Christ's affections for sinners and encouraging believers as they journey, weary and faltering, toward heaven. (Mid-Level Commitment)

Women's Little Church Tuesdays at 9:00 AM – Begins 1/24 (10 weeks) Led by Linda Jackson

This Little Church will meet weekly at CCW in the Hearth Room from 9:00-10:30 AM. This winter, they will be studying a book entitled, "Gentle & Lowly" by Dane Orlund with the video series. The video series is arranged into 10 sessions that correspond to questions in the study guide. This book draws us to Matthew 11, where Jesus describes himself as "gentle and lowly in heart," longing for his people to find rest in him. The gospel flows from God's deepest heart for his people, a heart of tender love of Christ for his people—for the sinful and the suffering. These chapters dive deep into Bible passages that speak of who Christ is and encourage readers with the affections of Christ for his people. Please contact Linda Jackson at ljack2328@ gmail.com with any questions or concerns. (Mid-Level Commitment)

Wednesday Little Church at 10:30 AM – Begins 2/1 (Weekly) Led by Gene Sherman

This Little Church meets weekly* at CCW in our Sanctuary. Within the context of a Communion service, this group studies the passage of the previous Sunday in detail using the Scripture Union questions for Bible Study.

*Meets at Knickerbocker Apartments (27100 Knickerbocker Road, Bay Village) the third Wednesday of every month. (Less Commitment)

Read, Mark, Learn Little Church at 7:00 PM – Begins 1/25 (Weekly) Led by Gene Sherman

Community Bible Study (CBS): CBS Cleveland West Class is a women's

This Little Church meets weekly* in the Hearth Room. This winter/spring, they will be focusing on **The Book of Acts, Part 1**. The 11-week curriculum walks through the first half of the Book of Acts—the authority of the King is proclaimed, the indwelling of the Spirit is secured, and the Church of God is multiplied. Witness a crucial moment in the history of our faith as the Gospel goes out against great odds and the Church takes root. *(Will not meet on 2/22, 4/5, and 4/12.) (High-Level Commitment)

interdenominational Bible study with nursery and pre-school programs available during the main, in-person class session for registered class members. Our main, in-person class is held on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. at New Hope Church (22960 Lorain Road, Fairview Park), beginning after Labor Day and running through early May. There is a Thursday morning online-only option as well. In addition, we have a Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in-person group that meets at Bay Presbyterian Church (25415 Lake Road, Bay Village) and a Tuesday evening online-only option. This year, we will study Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers in a course titled,

"From the Red Sea to the Jordan River." This study highlights that the Lord our God has a plan, knows each of us by name, is a promise keeper, and shows bountiful mercy! Cost for the year is \$35 and includes guided study books with detailed commentaries. The children's program cost is \$10 per child for the year. Scholarships are available! For more information and to register, visit www.communitybiblestudy.org or contact Stacey Litzler at Litzpr@aol.com. (High-Level Commitment)

サササササササササササ Sermon Texts / Questions for Skeptics / Seekers

"I have a question for you and an invitation. Hypothetically, if all your questions had answers that provided more reasons to believe in God than not, what would you do?"

Therefore, my invitation is twofold: First, I want to invite you to join me in a future investigation of your questions and, second, in the meantime I want to invite you to pray the skeptics prayer: "God if you're out there would you please do whatever it takes to help me find you" – while walking through John's gospel with me.

Personal Questions

- 1. Tell me your story
- 2. What do you love to do?
- 3. What's your favorite book?
- 4. What's your favorite movie?
- 5. What's your favorite style of music?
- 6. Who's your favorite music group?

Theological Questions

- 7. Do you believe in God? Why? Why not?
- 8. What's the meaning of your life (purpose)?
- 9. What would you say is true human freedom?
- 10. Do you believe in Heaven, if yes is there a Hell? How did you come that conclusion?
- 11. Are you certain that you're going to Heaven? If yes, how did you reach that conclusion?
- 12. Hypothetically, if God & heaven are real, on what basis do you believe God will or will not accept you into heaven? How did you reach that conclusion?
- 13. How do you decide what is moral or not? How did you reach that conclusion?
- 14. What is the most important for you to accomplish before you die? Why is that important to you?

For the Naturalist:

- 1. How does something come from nothing?
- 2. How does life come from non life?
- 3. How does a non-moral beginning through an amoral process produce a moral reasoning world?



Giving

The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God!

2023 Financials

Through Sunday	01/15/2023
<u>Offerings</u>	
Current Month Budget	\$50,148
Current Month Actual	\$35,090
YTD Budget	\$50,148
YTD Actual	\$35,092
Annual 2023 Budget	\$427,142
Building/Capital/Rent	
Current Month Budget	\$7,783
Current Month Actual	\$3,160
YTD Budget	\$7,783
YTD Actual	\$3,160
Annual 2023 Budget	\$93,450

Attendance for 01/15/2023

9:00 am — 24

10:30 am — 99

Wednesday - N/A

Online — **35**