

United In Christ Lutheran Church



LENT

Lent 5

March 17, 2024

Michelle Shearer

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter

Welcome to our church!

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,
and that you will experience God's presence here.*

May God bless you during worship today.



LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Vicar Katy Moran: Senior Seminarian

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSTION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law in our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace. Out of love for the whole world. God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

ELW 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

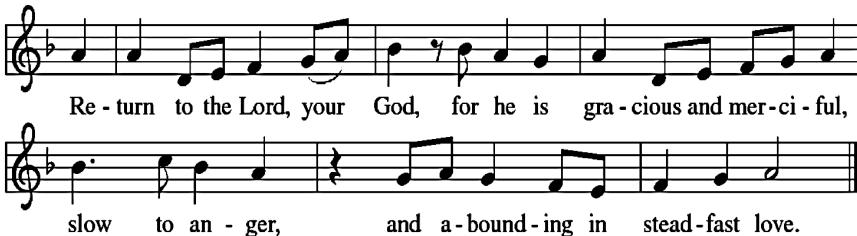
JEREMIAH 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer-ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:20-33

This is the Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith using the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

**Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.**

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving by clicking on the green "Give Now" button.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy good but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come

to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

1 O Lord, now let your servant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 545

Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - obey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*After worship please join us in the fellowship hall
for coffee and refreshments.*

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UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST



Please pray for: McKenzie Baker, Patrick Mosley, Ken Criswell, Megan Darzanoff, Ken Baker, Celia Warren, Annette Baker, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer, Viv Marsh.

Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254
or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in April which you will not be available to serve during worship. After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day. Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the April Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, March 18th.**

What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Mar. 17 **LENT 5**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Faith and Fun, 11:15am
Youth Group, 1:00pm
- Mon, Mar. 18 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Council Meeting, 6:30pm
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm
Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Tue, Mar. 19 Lenten Bible Study @ UIC, 6:30pm
- Wed, Mar. 20 Soup and Scripture @ CELC, 6:30pm
Lenten Supper @ CELC, 6:30pm
Lenten Worship @ CELC, 7:30pm
- Fri, Mar. 22 Office Closed
- Sat, Mar. 23 Empty Bowl Fundraiser @ MLC, 4pm
- Sun, Mar. 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
Worship, 10:00am
Social Hour, 11:15am
Faith and Fun, 11:15am

Benefits the
Self-Care
Sanctuary and
local community
outreach missions

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

An All You Can Eat soup dinner

Speaker:

Rose Robbins Williams,
founder of the Getting Ahead
Foundation

MARCH

23,
2024

4 - 6
PM

EVENT DETAILS

Location: Milton Lutheran
Church Fellowship Hall
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA 17847

Ticket Price: \$10.00 suggested
minimum donation



EASTER CANDY

(no chocolate please)

Please place your donations in the box in the
narthex labeled "EASTER CANDY".

We will meet on Friday, March 29th at 9am in
the Fellowship Hall to fill the plastic eggs.
Please join us!



A promotional image for an Easter Breakfast. On the left, a yellow box contains the text "Easter Breakfast" in large, bold, black letters, followed by "Sunday, March 31 8:30am" in a smaller, cursive font. To the right, there's a photograph of a breakfast spread on a wooden table, including scrambled eggs with bacon, a bowl of fruit, a pitcher of orange juice, a coffee pot, and a slice of toast with jam. At the bottom, another yellow box contains the text "Bring your family and join us Easter morning for a potluck breakfast." in black, sans-serif font.



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week Worship

JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH DEATH INTO LIFE

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 3/28 AT 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY: 3/29 AT 7:00PM

EASTER SUNRISE: 3/31 AT 6:30AM

EASTER SUNDAY: 3/31 AT 10:00AM



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Church is in need of sponsorships for 2023 Altar Flowers.

Cost is \$35.

Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Hall.

Flowers can be donated in memory of or in honor of family or friends. Please write on the chart what you would like printed in the bulletin. You may take your flowers home after worship.



Parables of Jesus Study Series

Join us at United In Christ for our upcoming Bible Study on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 20th at 6:30pm through the season of Lent! This year we will be journeying through the parables of Jesus alongside Dr. Amy Jill-Levine, the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace using her series: Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. In the wake of an increase of anti-Semitism and islamophobia, the effects of which even felt here in the Susquehanna Valley, the interfaith voice that Dr. Jill-Levine brings to these stories from Jesus will be of tremendous value as we journey through the wilderness.

Each week will focus on a new parable with a short video and accompanying discussion guide. Copies of the participant guide are available through the church office for \$10/copy. Even without a copy of the guide, you are invited to join us at any point along the way for the study! Come and see!

From the publisher:

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

In *Short Stories by Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine analyzes these "problems with parables" taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31
8:30am



Bring your family
and join us Easter morning
for a potluck breakfast.



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week Worship

JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH DEATH INTO LIFE

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WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 28 Maundy Thursday
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	
Bread/Wine	R. Baker	S. Bingaman	D. Byerly
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	ML Keifer
Digital Host	M. Shearer	S. Bingaman	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	D. Byerly J. Byerly	K. Guffey ML Keifer	L. Rabuck L. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	S. Brown	D. Gottlieb	S. Brown
Lector	M. Haussmann	R. Sprenkle	A. Stark
Ushers	K. Guffey J. Mertz L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	M. Shearer A. Stark B. Swartz T. Swartz	B. Troxell K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker
Communion Asst.	R. Kling R. Sprenkle	M. Shearer T. McPherrin	A. Stark B. Swartz
Guest Relations	K. Noll	M. Rabuck	
Offering Counter	M. Rabuck C. Shreck	M. Shearer P. Hauck	C. Shreck K. Guffey

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.



**1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-568-2254**

**WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Sundays at 10am**

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

CHURCH OFFICE
Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT
Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC