Christ UMC Worship 3.9.2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

OPENING MUSIC Dr. Johnathan Vest

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* CALL TO WORSHIP

As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today to be reminded of God's love for us. Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives. In this time of reflection and repentance,

We affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.

* OPENING HYMN "Gather Us In" 2236 (Black hymnal)

Congregation and Worship Band

1 Here in this place new light is streaming Now is the darkness vanished away See in this space our fears and our dreamings Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery We are the old who yearn for your face We have been sung throughout all of history Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the proud and the strong

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song

3 Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth Here you shall call your sons and your daughters Call us anew to be salt for the earth

> Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you Nourish us well and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining Not in some heaven light years away But here in this place the new light is shining Now is the kingdom, now is the day

> Gather us in and hold us forever Gather us in and make us your own Gather us in, all peoples together Fire of love in our flesh and our bones Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Composer: Marty Haugen. © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net #A-734439.

* OPENING PRAYER

ACT OF PRAISE

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" Celebration Singers arr. Carter

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GOD SPEAKS THE WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1-13 Meredith King

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Steve Middlebrooks

SCRIPTURE Luke 18:9-17 Todd Nussey

SERMON Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE "Belong" de Silva

Gayle and Mickey Cates

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Mark Price

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.

OFFERING Dr. Johnathan Vest

DOXOLOGY 95 (Red hymnal)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

WE ARE SENT TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

*CLOSING SONG 269 (Red hymnal)

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Congregation and Worship Band

1 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.

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

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

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

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

Text: Claudia Frances Hernaman (public domain).

SENDING FORTH Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes

BLESSING SONG "The Lord Bless and Keep You" Strathdee

The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine on you,
and be gracious, gracious.
The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord lift his countenance on you
and give peace, give you peace.
Shalom, shalom.

Music by Jim Strathdee. © 1981 Desert Flower Music. OneLicense.net #A-734439.

CLOSING MUSIC Dr. Johnathan Vest

We encourage you to take your printed worship order with you or to place them in the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

Prayer List

New Prayer Concerns

Caleb Lillard
Jennifer Sturgill

Tammy Hollis and Family

Jaclyn Slaughter and Family following the death of her mother

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Caroline Beshears and others who have lost Federal jobs

Jean Beshears Chip Beshears

Bodhi

Dave Bradley Velma Bradley

Susan Buck and Family following the death of her mother, Nhu Thi Sakura

Don Campbell Micah Davis

Tracey DuBose and Family following the death of her uncle, Steve Narrie

Dave Edmunds Margaret Fortney Mary Fredenhagen Melissa Gabehart Olivia Haight

Ty Henry Heath Hudy Johnie Hudson

Hannah Family

Jeremy Karea

Donnie King Jane Kirk Jerry Kirk Mr. Lattimore

Jeremy Mavis' sister

Family and friends of Tim McNew

following his death

Sue Mueller Bob Munn Our Nation

Chuck Neighbors Jackson Lee Noble

Friend and Family of Heather O'Dell following the death of her brother,

Kole

Terry Paradise

Peace in the Middle East

Judson Randolph Shanelle Rauh

Rick

Aaron Seay

Family of Janice and Bill Shelby following the death of their granddaughter, Hailey

Kevin Stefano

Tim Ukraine

Friends and Family of Trey Micah Whitlock following his death on

Dec. 28 John Wigant Jason Williams Terri Wildman

The Zeldman Family