

Christ UMC Worship
3.15.2026

**WORDS OF LIFE: SEE
WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

OPENING MUSIC	Dr. Johnathan Vest
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Paul Bonner
*CALL TO WORSHIP	
*OPENING HYMN "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" <i>Congregation and Worship Band</i>	57 (Red)

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;

ye blind, behold your Savior come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

Text: Charles Wesley (public domain).

*OPENING PRAYER

**O Lord,
open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
open our ears that we may hear their cries;
open our hearts so that they need not be without aid;**

**let us not be afraid to defend the weak
because of the anger of the strong,
nor afraid to defend the poor
because of the anger of the rich.**

**Show us where love, hope, and faith are needed,
and use us to bring them to those places.**

**And so, open our eyes and our ears
that we may this coming day be able to do
some work of peace for you. Amen.**

ACT OF PRAISE

"Amazing Grace"
Celebration Singers

arr. Coates

Text: John Newton. Arr.: John Coates. © 1971 Shawnee Press. OneLicense.net #A-734439.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marnie Cotton

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-41

Martha Moss
Ann Page
Jay Carnes*Please sing the response when directed.*

SERMON

Dr. Jimmy Byrd

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE

"No Outsiders"
Worship Band

Llewellyn|Cash|Gilkeson|Bentley

Composed by Chris Llewellyn, Ed Cash, Gareth Gilkeson, and Hank Bentley.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Paul Bonner

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

**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.**

CLOSING SONG

"Be Thou My Vision"
Congregation and Worship Band

451 (Red)

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
 I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
 Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
 Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Ancient Irish, trans. Mary E. Byrne; versed by Eleanor H. Hull (public domain).

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

DISMISSAL

Dr. Jimmy Byrd

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

Prayer List

Joy:

Anna and Chris Price (and big sister, Lily) announce the arrival of Hudson David Price, on March 5, 2026. Proud grandparents are Mark & Marne' Price

New Prayer Concerns:

Ella Thomas

Jim Durham and family following the death of his mother, Anna

Bishop Hutson

Alison White

Lesley Maginas

Danielle Anfuso and family following the death of her mother, Cindy Benedict

Family and friends of Kevin McFarland following his death

Wally Whidby

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Suzanne Brandon

Calafato Family

Don Campbell

Esther Cast

Joy Cobb

Rita and John Collett

Laura Coulam and family following
the death of her mother,

Merry Brown

Doug Davis

Micah Davis

Curt Demoff

Nancy Edmunds

Sally Faith

Scott Farmer

Ben Faulk

Margaret Fortney

Amanda Garner

Keith Geier

Edith Ann Gibb

Jim Gilchriest and family following
the death of his sister, Mary

Wayne Gilder

Kay Gregath

Amy Hargis

Carolyn Hatchett

Tommy Hatchett

Kathy Holtz

Donnie King

Family and friends of Jerry Kirk
following his death

Caleb Lillard

Mahers Family

Adam Montgomery

Ed & Sue Mueller

Judson Randolph

Pat Ring

Marigrace Rogers

Room in the Inn

Aaron Seay

Wilma Spivey

Marcia Stoner

Lynda Szeglin

Carole Vietti

Susan Ward

Mac Warner

Family and friends of Kurt
Westgard following his death

John Wigant

Jeff Williams

Karen Yarbrough

Kevin Younger

Upcoming Groups/Meetings/Events at Christ UMC

Additional details & sign-up links can be found in the newsletter

Maundy Thursday Conversations & Communion

April 2nd @ 6:30pm in the
Small Sanctuary

Learn more and RSVP using link



Prison Ministry Cards of Encouragement available to pick up beginning

March 15th Help share the joy of the Easter season with our Christ UMC friends at Riverbend. Cards will be available to pick up in the Narthex on March 15 & 22. Contact Suzanne Lange: suzannelange8@gmail.com

Lenten Class: Sacred Self-Care Led by Rev Bill Heinzman. Daily Practices for Nurturing Ourselves. Sundays until April 12 (no class Easter Sunday) after worship in Rm. 103.

Lenten Class: What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word & Art

Drop-in Sunday School class until March 29 from 9:30-10:15am in the library. All are welcome! We'll watch a DVD and engage in discussion. Facilitated by Tami D'Angelo and Anne Weinberg.

Retirement Planning Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays at 5:30pm in the library. Questions? Contact John Szabo/Steve Middlebrooks.

Room in the Inn (RITI) Volunteer Thank You BBQ! - We invite all our RITI volunteers (and anyone interested in learning about how to help next season) to join us for a Thank You BBQ on Thursday, April 9th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP at link in newsletter.

Prison Ministry Team Meeting - Sunday, April 12th after worship in the Library. All are welcome! Lunch is provided.

Monthly: Grief Support Group - 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 9:45am in the Fireplace Area. Contact Steve Middlebrooks

Monthly: Christ UMC Book Club - 3rd Tuesdays 4pm (Offsite)
Contact Jan Phelps for details.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Monthly: GraceWorks Fuel Bags - Contact Shelly Bleistein

Oct - April: Gentry's Tutoring - Contact Katie Higgins/Ethel Detch

Monthly: Meals on Wheels @ Franklin 1st - Contact Becky Calvin

Nov - March: Room in the Inn (RITI) - Contact Donna Hudson

Throughout April: United Women in Faith Diaper Drive

Diapers are not covered by food stamps and are always a big need! Help us support GraceWorks families in need throughout the month of April by donating diapers in the collection bins in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

Last Names A - H, please bring Size 4 diapers

Last Names I - R, please bring Size 5 diapers

Last Names S - Z, please bring Size 6 diapers