

A Word of Welcome

Introduction of Our Speaker

Music for Meditation – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – Mason/Young

[†]Gathering Praise – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #25

[†]Call to Worship

Leader: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world,
People: We are the beloved!
Leader: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today,
People: And renew our sense of calling.
Leader: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again,
People: How Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.
Leader: Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers,
People: And to renew our calling.

[†]Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...
All: Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this world into being with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved. Opening ourselves to your love we live beyond our mortal selves and join your eternal Oneness. Your presence does not separate us but unites; love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this we know we are loved, never rejected. Bless us now as we worship you. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

words on screen

Special Music – *Return to God* – Mackinaw Christian Church

Message – 1 Peter 1:3 NIV – Dr. Kahala Cannon, Global Relations Minister, Africa. Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

[†]Hymn of Invitation – *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* #461

Prayers of the People

A Response to Prayer – based on Psalm 107
Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
People: God has redeemed us from trouble
Leader: And gathered us from the east and from the west,
People: From the north and from the south.
Leader: We thank the Lord for steadfast love,
People: And for God’s wonderful works to humankind.
Leader: We lift the name of the Lord
People: And praise God before all people
Leader: Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
People: And consider the steadfast love of the Lord...

Communion Hymn – *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* #422

The Lord’s Supper – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* – Mason/Young
All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”

The Lord’s Supper is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. No matter what your background or denomination may be, you are invited to receive the elements as they are served.

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* – arr. Curey
(If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your offering in the plate on the communion table.)

+Lenten Doxology

Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

+Dedication of Offering

+Benediction

+Congregational Response – *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* words on screen

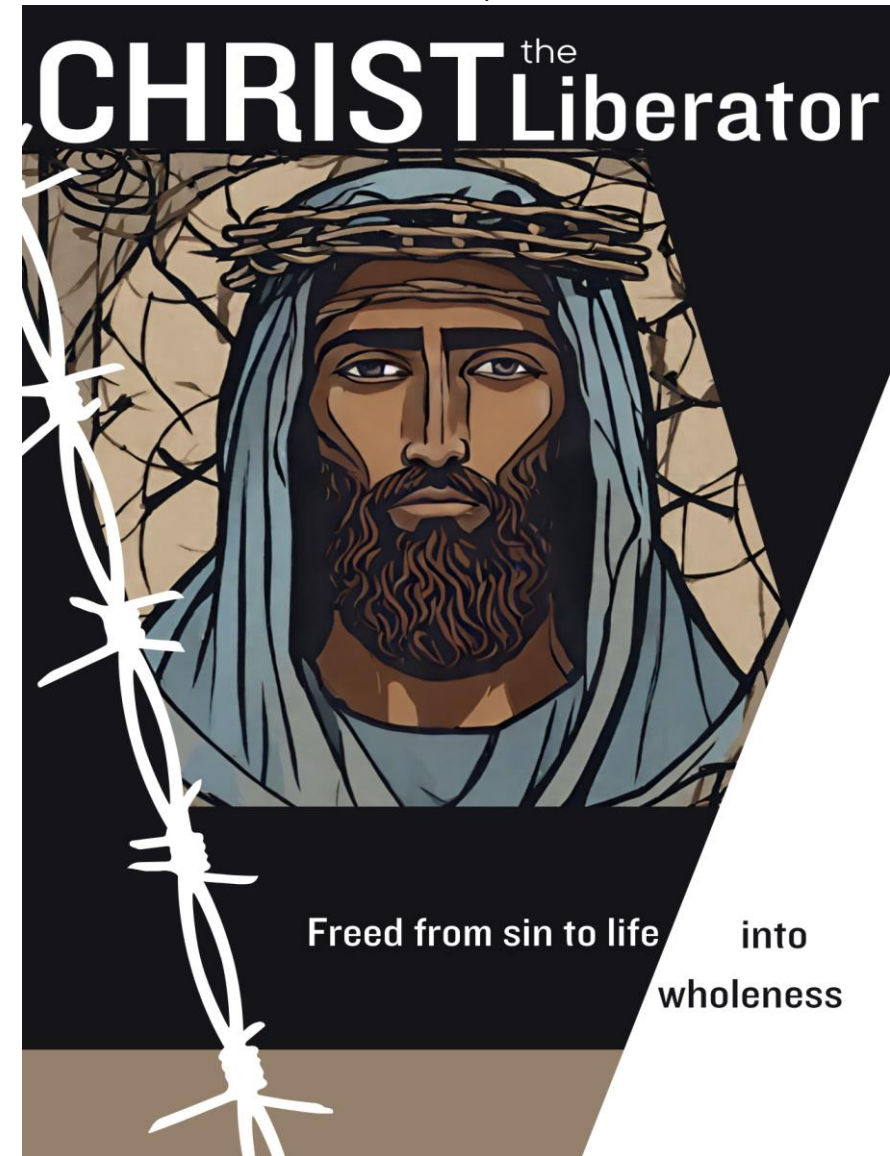
+Postlude – *Sinfonia* – Handle/Williams

Tonight's Offering

2024 Cluster Lenten Series offerings will benefit Global Ministries' support for the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo's Vocational Training Center (open to both men and women) by helping to provide sewing machines for those who complete their training, materials for the sewing and carpentry programs, aesthetics (cosmetics, hair, and design skills) and medical care costs for students. Please make checks payable to Global Ministries.

Illinois Valley Cluster Lenten Service

March 10, 2024



First Christian Church
Peoria, IL