



**February 22, 2026**

*First Sunday in Lent*

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Chuck Terlinden

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*Welcome to Christ Church!* We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## For your Reflection

*"I think one of the greatest gifts our Creator has given us is the gift of anticipation and suspense. How boring would life be if we knew how it would all turn out in advance! The truth is that in life, we never know what's going to happen next! In the next few moments, something could happen that could change the entire direction and quality of your life in an instant. We must learn to love change, for it is the only thing that is certain." ~Anthony Robbins*

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Prelude                      *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley* - Spiritual

Welcome & Announcements

Solo                                      *There's a Path*

Introduction

Solo with Echo                      *There's a Path*

There's a path (**there's a path**)...though it winds its way through darkness  
We would choose (**we would choose**)...to avoid it if we could  
We awake (**we awake**)...to an unexpected calling  
God says, "Come (**God says, "Come**)...there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

Unison Prayer

**Unexpected Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. Walk with us, speak to us, call us. In your many names, we pray. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn              *O God, How We Have Wandered*                      (see below)

\*Litany of Confession and Assurance

One: For giving fear too much facetime,

**All: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

One: For digging in rather than going with the flow,

**All: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

One: For holding on too tight when what we need to do is let go,

**All: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

*Silent prayers...*

One: Hear these words of assurance: God dwells with us, no matter how sure or unsure we are. God is not uncertain about whether or not we are worthy of love. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

\*The Peace of Christ

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please pass the peace of Christ with one another in whatever way you are most comfortable.

\*Response

*God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 11-12 (NRSVUE)

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Gift of Music

*At the Cross* - Cota

Bell Choir

Contemporary Reading: Brother David Steindl-Rast

"You are like Rilke's Swan in his awkward waddling across the ground; the swan doesn't cure his awkwardness by beating himself on the back, by moving faster, or by trying to organize himself better. He does it by moving toward the elemental water, where he belongs. It is the simple contact with the water that gives him grace and presence. You only have to touch the elemental waters in your own life, and it will transform everything. But you have to let yourself down into those waters from the ground on which you stand, and that can be hard. Particularly if you think you might drown...Let go of all this effort, and let yourself down, however awkwardly, into the waters."

Sermon

"The Gift of Uncertainty"

Pastor Bob

Time for Reflection

\*Statement of Faith

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**We love and trust God, who is love. God is patient; God is kind; God is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. God does not insist on God's own way. God is not irritable or resentful. God does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.**

**We love and trust Jesus, who embodied love. His love saves us—not his glorious speech, nor his understanding of all mysteries, nor his mountain-moving faith, but his love. In love he bore all**

**things, believed all things, hoped all things, endured all things. In love he bore the cross and died; and in love God raised him from the dead, for love never dies.**

**We love and trust the Holy Spirit, who gives us life. Our knowledge is finite; our religion will end; but the love of the Spirit is infinite. By the Spirit we leave behind childish things, and what is partial, and grow into what is whole. By the Spirit we trust that now we know only in part; in time we will know fully. For in the Love of God we are fully known, and we give thanks. We have the gifts of faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Come and rest **(echo: come and rest)**

Come and listen **(echo: come and listen)**

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

**(echo: Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker)**

One: There are many people who are walking through the Dark Woods for various reasons. I invite you to call out names of those who need our prayers...

*Joan G, Darlene's mom Jan, John H's nephew Matt, Nancy S, Joan A's grandson Blair, Jacob O's Aunt Joann (see Weekly Newsletter for details)*

One: There are many places in this world where uncertainty reigns. I invite you to lift up names of places in this world that need our prayers...

Come and rest **(echo: come and rest)**

Come and listen **(echo: come and listen)**

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

**(echo: Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker)**

Pastoral Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also in our deeds through the tithes and offerings that we give today.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

*Because He Lives* - Gaither

\*Doxology

**Praise God the source of breath and birth,  
who formed us from the dust of earth,  
and made us one humanity  
to love and set each other free!**

Prayer of Dedication

**O God, bless these gifts that we have been given as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring your reign of peace and love closer to fulfillment, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.**

\* Hymn

*The Old Rugged Cross*

**Hymn #260**

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Song

*There's a Path*

There's a path (**there's a path**)... and it leads us out together  
To the wood (**to the wood**)... where the darkness hovers still  
We are sent (**we are sent**)... and the Spirit goes before us  
God says, "Go (**God says, "Go**)...be my presence in the world."

Postlude


*Postlude* - Anon. English

# O God, How We Have Wandered


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Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20



1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet - us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)  
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

## **THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH**

### **Today**

Coffee Hour

### **Tuesday, Feb 24**

Quilting, 9:30am  
Council Meeting, 6pm

### **Wednesday, Feb 25**

Noon Lenten Service

### **Thursday, Feb 26**

Divine Intervention, 6pm

**Counters:** Sara Roger, Jill Unglaub

**Greeters:** Nancy Kaye, Janet Dietert

### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

BVCC Food Donations

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Noon Lenten Services** will be held on **Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

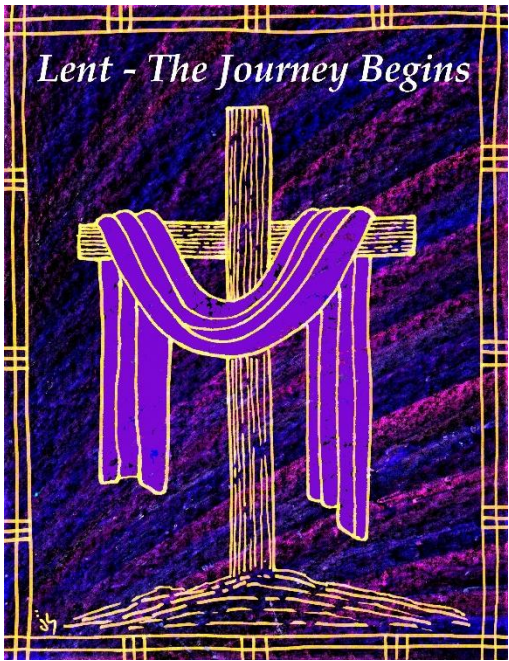
**Divine Intervention Meal** | Please sign up to help with food items and /or serving our February meal on **Thursday, Feb 26**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Chicken casseroles with rolls, salad, dessert, milk. The donation sheet is on the Lenox Street Bulletin Board. Food items must be dropped off at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, 125 W. Saveland Avenue by 6pm. See *Jim or Randene* for more information.

**Sunday School** | First through eighth grade students are invited to participate in Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month, starting **Feb 15**. We will meet in the corner room on first floor, near the stairway. Sunday School will start at 9:30 and students will be released when church ends, to meet their parents in the Narthex. All are invited to join the fun! Contact *Michael Key*.

**Christ Church Paper Drive** | The Divine Intervention warming room is in need of paper products, specifically paper towels and toilet paper. A collection box for donations is located outside the office near the Lenox Street entrance. We will be collecting these items throughout January and February.

**Prayer Requests** | All prayer requests are welcomed. As always people can call the office and provide information for a specific request. Pastor Bob is always available for prayer requests in person, by email, or by phone. In addition, a prayer request card will now be available in the church pews (by the church envelopes). Place your prayer request cards in the offering plate. These prayers will be shared in the bulletin and newsletter, for the month they are received. At the end of the month, they will not automatically be reposted, so we ask that you please complete a NEW prayer request card. With any updates, your input is helpful to make sure we are addressing everyone's concerns and suggestions.  
*Membership Committee and Music & Worship Committee*

**Rummage Sale** | Start sorting and saving your good stuff now! Christ Church will be participating in the Bay View Neighborhood Association Rummage Sale in **May**, date to be announced. Donations may be placed outside the middle choir room door in the basement. Contact *Michael or Janet Key* if you need items picked up or if you need assistance getting things unloaded on Sunday morning. Many hands make light work, so please plan to join this effort to raise money for the General Fund.



Monthly Activity	January	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$23,809	\$23,809
Expenses	\$21,008	\$21,008
Budgeted Amount	\$15,142	\$15,142

Christ Church UCC

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**Livestream:** [youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI](https://youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI)

If you should need pastoral support, please contact  
**Pastor Bob** at 440-440-506-3258 or [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org)

