



SECOND SUNDAY
in
LENT

St. John's United Church of Christ

300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006

Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

Sunday, March 16, 2025

[* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

Words of Welcome: “Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One.”
~ Pope Benedict XVI

Organ Prelude: “Meditation” — Bubeck

Welcome & Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship⁺:

L: When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?

P: The psalmist says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

L: When I am afraid, what can I count on?

P: “The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.”

L: We gather in the light of God’s protection.

P: We come to pray, praise and sing.

A: Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #264

*Prayer of the Confession⁺:

Holy One, we look towards your cross and remember all of the ways we have failed. You have promised to be with us, to journey on the path by our side. And yet so often we turn from you. Far too often we do not follow your ways. Instead of love, we sow hate and division. Instead of reaching out to our neighbors, we build walls. Instead of trusting in Jesus, we puff up ourselves. Forgive, O God, and empower us to do better. We truly do want to be your faithful disciples. Help us as we strive to do just that. For we pray in the name of He who calls us, Jesus. Amen.

*Assurance of Grace

Prayer Response: “Glory Be to the Father” #734

Mission Moment: Our Church Wider Mission (UCC)

Especially for Children

The Song: **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Luke 13:31-35

Special Music by Zach Frye: “Aria” – Stradella

Sermon: “He Believed Him”

Hymn: “The God of Abraham Praise” #16

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: “Chanson” — Debussy

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn: “At the Cross” #258

*Benediction

Organ Postlude: “Solemn March” — Mendelssohn

+ From UCC Worship Ways, original by Rev. Ruth Garwood.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:

March 16	Myron Kanning	Our Church Wider Mission (UCC)
March 23	Anna Mauer	St. John’s Membership Services
March 30	Joan Westerfeld	One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)



St. John's Prayer List – Those Bereaved *(these names remain on for one year):*

Gayle Sarringhaus.

Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray:

Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Nikki Sarringhaus; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Randy & Becky Schebler; Delores Cornett; Sandi Maxwell (Cancer, Friend of Jennifer Huffmeyer); Georgia Haarman; Lonna Patton & Stephen Feldmann (On their recovery, Pastor Joey's Parents); Robbyn Woluing (Cancer Diagnosis, Cousin to Ron, Mark & Randy Meyer); Trenton Gesell (On his recovery, Neighbor to Dale Koester); Mike Bauman (Health Issues, Brother to Jim Bauman); Dale "Porky" Wittkamper (On his recovery from a broken shoulder); Jennifer Huffmeyer (On her recovery from a knee replacement); David Kelley (Health Issues, Uncle to Kristina Frye); Dale Koester's nieces safety during the wild fires in CA; The family of James Rodney Eaton on his passing (Brother of Larry Eaton); Connie Moody (Prayers for the vision in her right eye); Harry Krieger (Health Issues); Martie Huey (Health Issues, Cousin to Martha Dieckmann); Charlie Zeigler (Health Issues).

Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:

Quintin Comer, Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller, Bryce Timonera, Chris Williams.

Our Members and Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes: (For Peace)

St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville: Frank Bergman, David Johnston,
Margaret Meyers; Carol Narwold.

Aspen Place, Greensburg: Charlotte Huffmeyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 17: Ecumenical Choir Practice 6:30pm

March 19: NO Confirmation Class
Lenten Service 7pm

March 20: Messenger Deadline



If you would like to place an Easter flower or Heavenly bouquet (*monetary donation to help maintain the beauty of our altar*) in the Sanctuary in memory or honor of someone on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering tray or turn in it to the office. All forms **MUST** to be turned in to the office no later than **Sunday, March 24th**. Please have all flowers to the church by noon on Holy Saturday, March 30th. You may pick up your flowers up after service on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

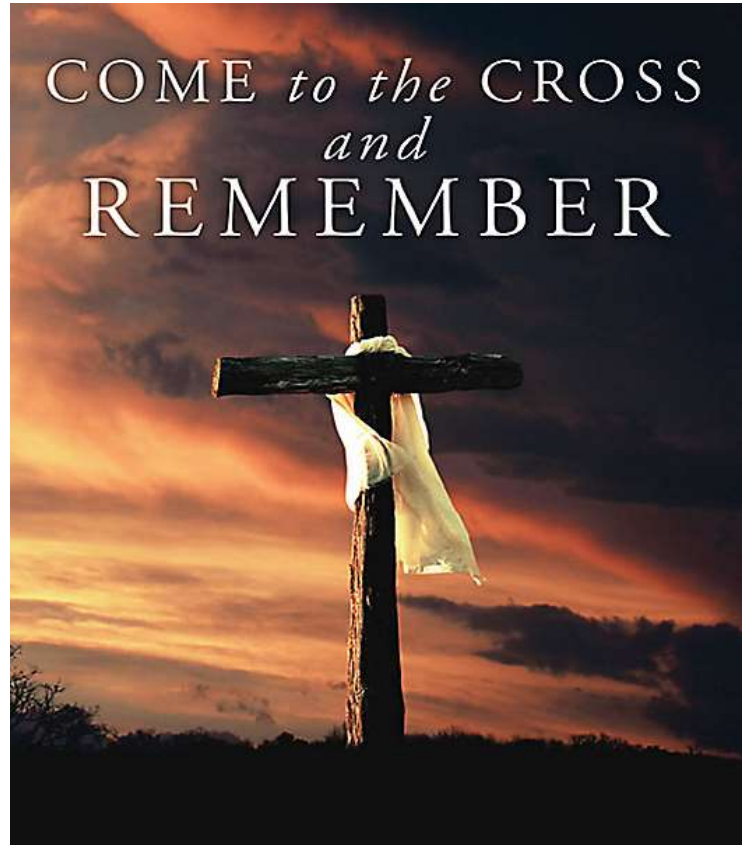
I would like to: (*circle one*)

- place a Easter flower in the sanctuary or
- donate a Heavenly bouquet

In Memory of or In Honor of (*circle one*):

Name: _____

Given By: _____



Practice for St. John's UCC 41st Easter Ecumenical Cantata has begun, however, it's not too late to join. All ages, voices, and faiths are welcome!

This year's cantata is **Come To The Cross And Remember**. A moving account of Christ's journey to the cross, we think you'll like the comfortable vocal range, varied song styles, and meaningful lyrics. Sharon Miller will be our Director again this year.

Performance Dates/Times:

Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 20 at 6:30am
Encore Performance, Sunday, April 27 at 7:00pm

Practice Dates/Times:

Monday's from 6:30-7:30pm
March 24, 31, Apr 7, April 14
Thursday, April 17 (*approx. 8:15pm*);
after Maundy Thursday Service.



Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18:

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He

brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates...."

Luke 13:31-35:

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Hymns

In the Cross of Christ I Glory (page #264)

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

The God of Abraham Praise (page #16)

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
the ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free,
hi surging where it will;
in prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.
Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
We praise you, living God!
We praise your holy name;
who was, and is, and is to be,
fore'er the same!

Glory Be to the Father (page #734)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Doxology (page #34)

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

At the Cross (page #258)

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

Refrain:

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away,
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day!

Was it for crimes that I had done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree! [Refrain]

Well might the sun in darkness hide
and shut his glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker,
died for his own creature's sin. [Refrain]

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away
'tis all that I can do! [Refrain]