

**Peace United Church of Christ
March 16th, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
10:30am**



Mary & Martha, Lauren Wright Pittman
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Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Come as you are.

If you have deep faith

or your faith has run dry,

if you know every scripture

or none at all,

if you have calloused hands

and live your faith through good works,

or if you kneel at God's feet,

with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

This is God's house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.

*Song

Be Now My Vision

#451 NCH

*Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart-
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.*

*Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.*

*Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.*

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

*Prayer of Confession

God of Grace,

We long to do the "right" thing.

We long to make the "right" choice.

We long to stand on the "right" side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way.

Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Faithful friends, God knows our hearts.

When we mean well and lose our way, God knows.

When we try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When we long to be close to God, but instead find doubt and emptiness, God knows.

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Through Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Baptism of Chet Harold Janke

Amanda McElray Hunter

Invitation

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Questions of the Parents and Godparents

Britta & Justin Janke

Linley & Curtis Gabbert, Jessica Harm

Congregational Response

Will you be a caring, supportive community for Chet and his family? Will you provide opportunities for his spiritual growth that he may come to know and trust the goodness of God? Do you promise your love, support, and care on behalf of the whole church of Jesus Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Baptism

Congregational Greeting & Blessing

Song

Jesus Loves Me

#327 NCH

***Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.***

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

***Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."***

Refrain:

***Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.***

Refrain:

Hebrew Bible Reading

Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Anthem

Blessing, Katie Moran Bart

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

What Shall I Give?

#18 P&W

What shall I give to you? (repeat)

**Oh, that we could give like the rain
Pouring out on rich and poor the same
Oh, that we could give like the sun
Shining light on everyone**

**Teach us how to give we pray
Offering our work and play
Oh, that we could learn how to care
Every breath we breathe a prayer**

**Oh, that like the bread we become
Scattered grains all gathered in one
With this cup of blessing you give
Fill us and teach us how to live**

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory *My Sisters and Brothers*, Charles Johnson
as performed by Jerry Garcia

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* #347 NCH

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**
**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**
**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:
Oliver Cushenbery, Greeter
Pam Kramer, Usher
Phyllis Cook, Head Usher
Stacey Stark, Rick and Karola Dalen, Coffee Volunteers
Sharon Crosby, Coffee Coordinator
Grace Ryan and Elise Westbrook, Nursery Attendants
Matt Prois, bass and vocals, Ron Deters, guitar and vocals, Dan Shepard, drums