



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.



February 18th, 2026

7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday

Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

📺 Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

🌐 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

📘 facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

👨👩👧👦 CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

🚻 **Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

🚻 **Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

💧 **Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

🌿 **Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

🌍 OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

💻 Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at

👉 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a “church of firsts” and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision “...that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** and **WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work



🌿 OUR MISSION

“Share God’s teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need.”

"When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them." -Matt 6:5

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

*** Please stand in body or spirit.**

Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.

PRELUDE

***** **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** *****

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Beloved of Christ, let us enter this holy space of worship and this holy time of Lent.

All: We come, turning and returning to God.

One: We gather knowing that God embraces our whole selves.

All: We come laughing or weeping, rejoicing or mourning, confident or doubting, carefree or burdened.

One: We begin in dust and in quiet, seeking courage to begin again.

All: We come, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

One: We take on the disciplines of Lent as acts of faithful resistance.

All: We come to dream of a world renewed. We imagine a world at peace. We lift our voices in praise.

***** **BELL** *****

HYMN

"What Wondrous Love is This"

(see music insert)

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION *(unison)*

One: Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, laying down our burden of guilt into the grave of forgiven wrongs, where shame is conquered forever. Holy God, you created life from dirt, breathing air into our lungs, and entrusting us to live rightly. Today, as we remember our mortality with ashes and prayer, we confess our tendency to forget.

All: We have forgotten our Creator. We have forgotten that we came from dust and we shall return to dust.

One: Remind us of our fragile humanness, held delicately in the palm of your hand. Remind us to observe and appreciate creation—this incredible universe imagined for your glory and life's flourishing.

All: Forgive us for living as if we are invincible. Forgive us for living as if we are powerless.

One: For you are both the great God of all living things and the precious Spirit that inhabits each of us.

All: Have mercy upon us, your children. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (CEB)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON

“Ashes in a World on Fire”

Rev. Gilbert Martinez

RESPONSE to scripture(*twice*)

 b Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show b
 b us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. b

A NEW CREED (unison)

We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in the true Man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

“Oh Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

(Red Hymnal #186)

PRAYER OF PETITION

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) *please recite the version closest to your heart*

(Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We believe the death and life cycles of creation are a gift to our survival. We believe there is a season for life and death, from spring to winter, or the rainy season to the dry season. We believe God breathes life into dust, transforming the decay of our universe into life itself. We grieve when death is wrought by sin and injustice. We lament when we lose the people and pets we love. We trust that in God's dream of a righteous, loving kin(g)dom, even death will be made right. We believe God's creative imagination is bound not by binaries or hierarchies or life and death, but only by love and justice. When our lives end, we believe our souls, formed by the very breath of God, live in glory with Jesus. We believe every life is worthy of dignity, even in death.

***HYMN**

“Create In Me a Clean Heart”

(see music insert)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (unison)

One: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent...commit ourselves to the work of imagination.

All: Remember you are from dust, and to dust you shall return.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: <https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving>



HYMN "The Work of Imagination" (during collection, see music insert)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (After the benediction, you are invited to respond with these words.)

We will walk in the light and truth of God. We will heed our call to follow Jesus. We will bathe in the warmth of our God. We will be bold, for God goes with us.

***** **Bell & Extinguishing of the Candles** *****

***HYMN** "Savior, When in Tears and Dust" (see music insert)

POSTLUDE



What Wondrous Love Is This

(Optional chords in parentheses)

Words by
Alexander Means

Music By
William Walker

VERSE

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2. When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And

5 won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

11 caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 - neath God's right - eous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul, for my
 is the Great "I Am," while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 sing and joy - ful be, and thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

16 soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.
 soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, and thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Words and Music by
Andy Gilbert

VERSE

1

D A/D G G/B D D/F# G A Bm A/C# D Em D/F# Asus A

Cre-ate in me a clean heart and re-new a stead-fast spir-it in me. Cre

CHORUS

2

D D7 G A/G F#m Bm Em A

spir-it in me. Cast me not from Your pres-ence, or take Your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.

9 D D7 G A/G F#m Bm G D/F#

Re-store to me the joy of sal-va-tion, and give me a will-ing spir-it,

Create In Me A Clean Heart - 2

14 Em7 D/F# Em7 D/F# G G/A D

give me a will-ing spir-it, give me a will-ing spir-it, O God.

The Work of Imagination

Words and Music by
ANDREA HAMILTON, REBEKAH LOWE,
and AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Verse 1

Dm F Bb F

1. Can you im - a - gine a world with - out hate,
2. Can you im - a - gine? we have__ e - nough

where we__ see God in ev - 'ry face? Can you im - a - gine
to feed and clothe__ ev - 'ry - one?_ Can you im - a - gine

a world with - out fear, where all__ are safe and peace is near?
a world where all are free to be the person God made them to be?

__ Can you im - a - gine all things re - newed? As

deep cries out to deep, our spir - its join your song In the

work of im - a - gin - a - tion to re - write ev - 'ry wrong. As

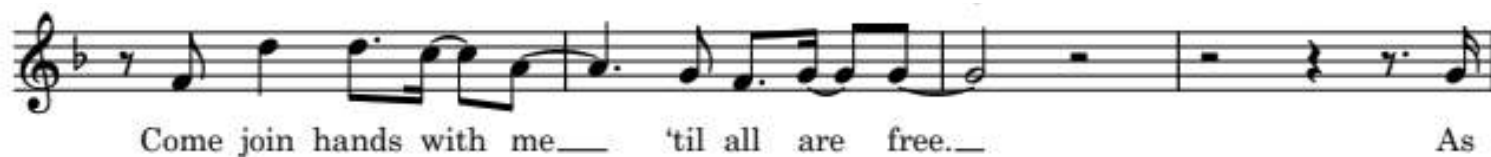
deep cries out to deep, we pray your king - dom come. In the

Dm Bb F C 1. Dm Bb F

work of im - a - gin - a - tion to see your will be done.

2.

Bridge



1.

Dm

Bb

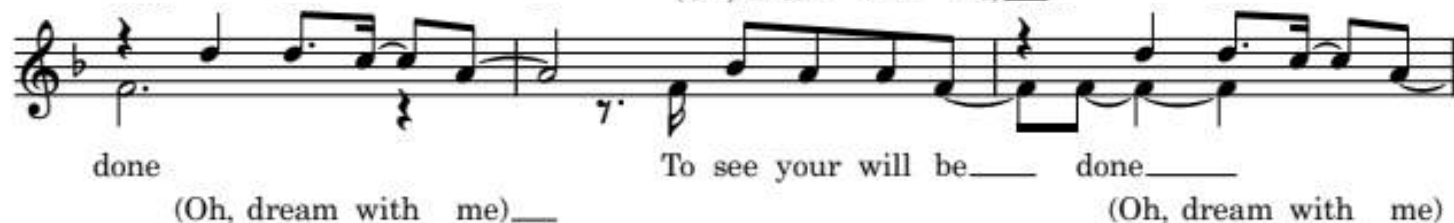
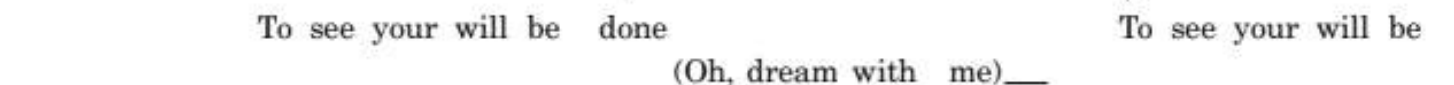
F

C

2.

Dm

Bb



Savior, When in Tears and Dust

185

Robert Grant, 1815; alt.



1 Sav - ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
 2 By your help-less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,

When re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
 By your days of sore dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
 By the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
 By the vault whose cold a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God:

Mind - ful how you suf - fered pain that God's love in us might reign—
 By the dread mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's power:
 By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice:
 O from earth to realms of light, Christ re - stored in power and might,

Help us claim what we would be, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Turn, O turn a fa - voring eye, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten to our hum - ble cry, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten, lis - ten to the cry of our sol - emn lit - a - ny.

Tune: SPANISH HYMN 7.7.7.7.D.

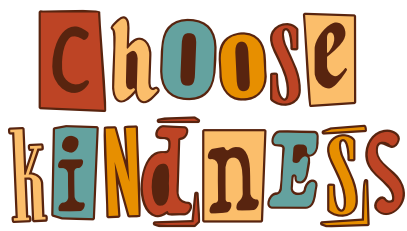
Traditional melody

Arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824

CCLI License # 1718955

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Jazmyn Vasquez
Music Director.....	Karen Wilberg



ANNOUNCEMENTS



GET IT TOGETHER: Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on March 18th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*


MEN'S LUNCH: Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY: They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT: If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins. Speak to Cathy for more information!

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP: Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 

RICHARD HAGEDORN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE will be on **Saturday, February 21st at 10 AM**, here at Christ Church UCC. Please join his family in celebrating his life.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY DATES coming up:

Ch. 2	Feb 19 th
Ch. 3	Feb 26 th
Ch. 4	Mar 5 th
Ch. 5	Mar 12 th
Ch. 6	Mar 19 th

RELIABLE HELP FOR ALL YOUR HOME REPAIR AND UPKEEP NEEDS! Services include general repairs, minor electrical & plumbing, painting, flooring, furniture assembly, power washing, landscaping, and home & window cleaning. **Call Emanuel at (224) 392-9069**





Christ Church

United Church of Christ

1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016

847-297-4230

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 3 pm;

***Days off:* Friday & Saturday**



For after-hour pastoral care emergencies,

please call Rev. Gilbert on his cell phone at 224-250-9898.

Website: christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

Instagram: instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor

gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kat Chwalisz, Administrative Assistant

kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Helayne Levin, Finance Coordinator

helayne@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Karen Wilberg, Music Director & Church Organist

karen@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Tommie Jordan, Custodian

Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician

Rita S. Barth, Faith Forward Adventures Lead Teacher

Grace Pastor, Faith Forward Adventures Teacher

Lay Ministry: All Members

Judy Rosedale, *Council President*; Laura Hallberg, *Council Vice-President*

Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns

& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.

Art Sketch of Church Front by Nancy Boeckenhauer 1990.