

Those Serving Us Today

Message: Mari Roedig
Leader: Wendy Reed
Reader: Tom Reed
Music: Mari Roedig
Usher: Tom Reed/Matt Swadner
Altar Preparation: Wendy Reed /Linda Herzog/ Tom Reed

**Our next service will be on Sunday, March 1 at 9:15 am
The First Sunday in Lent**

*Holy Communion will be served. All those who believe that
Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are welcome to partake
at the table.*

Donations

If you wish to have your donations counted for tax purposes, please use the envelopes provided and put your name, address and phone number on the envelope. Thank you to all for your donations. Each month, Gathering of Disciples church donates to charitable non-profit organizations in our community and to the Manitowoc Health and Rehabilitation Center activity fund. Thank you for your generosity as we grow in service to our Lord.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

9:15 a.m.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

**Gathering Of Disciples
Christian Church
(G.O.D.'s Church)**

**A Christian congregation
located in the Angel Chapel at the
Manitowoc Health and Rehabilitation Center
2021 South Alverno Road
Manitowoc, WI**

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Please Greet One Another and Welcome Visitors

Announcing the Day

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, we wear the cross of Christ as we journey through Lent to the great Resurrection of Easter.

Order of Worship

Introductions and Announcements

Welcome

L: Let us now take a moment to center our hearts and minds on God in preparation for worship.

The Service of Readings, Prayer and Hymns

L: God of heaven and earth,

C: you come in close and make us yours. Grant to us your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Entrance Hymn (*Please be seated*) #500

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

The Confession and Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

L: Merciful God,

C: Our will is handcuffed to sin and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We

were silent when we should have said something. We acted when we knew better. We were still when we know we should have moved. For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Kyrie

L: In Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, for our salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this congregation and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious God.

C: Amen.

L: The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

C: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness,

and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord Amen.

The First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is close at hand—
² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
 a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
 nor ever will be in ages to come.
¹²“Even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
¹³Rend your heart
 and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
 and he relents from sending calamity.
¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and relent
 and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
 for the LORD your God.

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion,
 declare a holy fast,
 call a sacred assembly.
¹⁶Gather the people,
 consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
 gather the children,
 those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
 weep between the portico and the altar.
Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.
 Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
 a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’”

Psalm 51: 1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
 blot out my transgressions.
²Wash away all my iniquity
 and cleanse me from my sin.
³**For I know my transgressions,**
 and my sin is always before me.
⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
 and done what is evil in your sight;

**so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

²⁰ We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand if you are able)*

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

L: The holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-21

¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the ⁶ hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

**¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**
The Message (Please be seated)

The Hymn of the Day

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“Amazing Grace”

Disposition of Ashes

Remember, you are dust and unto dust you shall return

The Apostle's Creed

(Please stand if you are able)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

L: "Lord, in your Mercy" C: "Hear Our Prayer"

The Offering *(Please be seated)*

("We Give Thee But Thine Own 688 vs 1, 5)

C: We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

L: Merciful God,

C: Receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction

L: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of light, strengthen us on our journey into life renewed.

C: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine upon us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

The Closing Hymn

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"Rock of Ages"

L: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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