

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Childcare: All children are welcome in our service. Parents please keep your children with you. Children's bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances and the worship activity center in back. Our nursery (2nd floor) is open at 10:30am for ages 0-4 years.

Communion: Our communion is open to all who seek to follow in the way of Jesus. Pick up a prepackaged communion cup with grape juice, available at either entrance to the sanctuary.

Offering: To contribute financially to the ministries of our congregation, place gifts in the offering boxes at any sanctuary entrance. To visit our website for online giving options, scan QR code.



How to become a member: We are part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), welcoming all who seek to follow in the ways of Jesus. To learn more about us and how to join with this congregation, speak to Pastor Nancy. Look for upcoming Guest Gatherings to learn more about who we are and how to be a part of FCC Morehead.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Mar. 17	7:00 PM	Faith & Film Festival (Zoom)
Mar. 19	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible (Zoom)
Mar. 20	4:00 PM	Pastor's class for baptism
	6:00/7:00 PM	Bells/Choir rehearsal

Looking Ahead

Mar. 24		Palm Sunday. Easter Special Offering
Mar. 25	7:00 PM	Full Board Meeting (Zoom)

OUR PRAYERS

World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

For those who desire our prayers:

Ken Howard, Gracie Grant, Jean and John Roberts, Jack Duby, Wendell Jones, Tim Stevens, Diana Reeder, Anne Buckner, Rex Chaney, Jim Gross, Maggie Miles, Ned Breschel, Tony Honeycutt, Jim Fred Cassity, Eva Johnston, Hedy Caldwell

For those celebrating birthdays:

Elizabeth Ash (3/18);
Cathy Hammond (3/22); Jon Jenkins (3/23);
Jasper Hernandez (03/23)

Prayer concerns and joys may be shared with the office.

**Concerns will be posted for two weeks only
unless otherwise requested.**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY, 40351

phone: 606.784.4836
email: fccmky@gmail.com
www.fccmorehead.org

holy week

ECUMENICAL
WORSHIP

maundy thursday

March 28 at 6:00 pm

dinner with communion,
prayer stations, and foot washing

First Christian Church
227 E. Main St.

good friday

March 29 at 6:00 pm

Tenebrae service of scripture
reading and music

First Baptist Church
123 E. Main St.

WE ARE DISCIPLES

We are Disciples.....

We prepare God's table for all,
as it was prepared for us.

We embrace the old,
the heartsick, the outcast,
the different.

We believe Love wins.....

Minister	Rev. Nancy Gowler
Music Director.....	Genny Jenkins
Keyboardist	Jiyeon McGillicuddy
Interns.....	Mason Pack, Logan Smalley, Riley Stephens, Katie Webb
Liturgist.....	Cathy Thomas
Elder.....	David Perkins
Greeter.....	Connie Kibbey
Audio/Visual Team	Ethan Jenkins, Braeden Trent
Nursery Attendant.....	Ellie Williams

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

MARCH 17, 2024



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

For thousands of years, First Peoples have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality.

We are gathered on the Lower Triplett Creek watershed, part of the traditional territory of the Shawnee, Cherokee, and Osage people, past, present, and emerging, and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.”
—John 12:32

....It's more than the beating of the single heart.
It's praising.
It's giving until the giving feels like receiving.
You have a life—just imagine that!
You have this day, and maybe another, and maybe
still another....
—Mary Oliver, “To Begin With, the Sweet Grass”

*indicates the congregation stands in body and/or spirit

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome

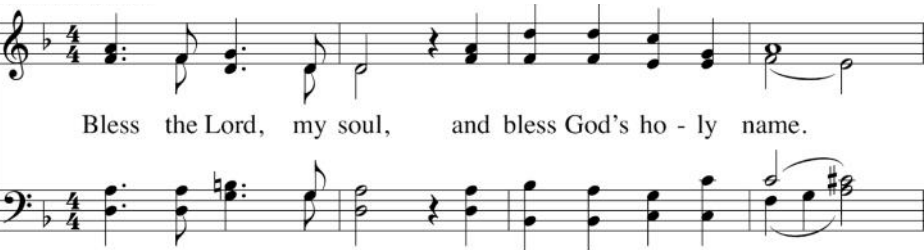
Rev. Nancy Gowler

Bell of Mindfulness

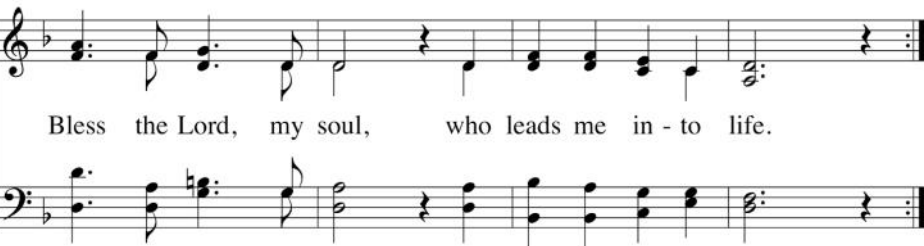
Cathy Thomas

Song of Approach

Bless the Lord, My Soul



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Opening Prayer

Cathy Thomas

Holy One, dwell within us.
Whisper in our ears;
Glimmer in our vision;
Write upon our hearts.
We wait for you.
With open ears, open eyes, and open hearts,
we wait for you. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

All My Hope on God is Founded

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Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Rev. Nancy Gowler

When we resist your call to change our hearts
and open ourselves up to a deepening of relationship with you:
God, have mercy.
When we nurse our wounded hearts
and withhold forgiveness which may transform fractured relationships:
Christ, have mercy.
When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts
from those who are in need:
God, have mercy.
Create in us new hearts,
inscribe your law of love on our hearts,
forgive us and restore us.
(silence for reflection)
Know this to be true: God is generous in love and gracious in mercy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Cathy Thomas

Listen now for Word and Wisdom
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

Anthem

A Song of the Covenant

FCC Choir

Scripture Reading

John 12:20-33

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Heavenly words for earthly people.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

—

Rev. Nancy Gowler

RESPONDING TO GOD’S STORY

*Song of Response

God of Jeremiah (Kelvingrove)

Brian Wren

God of Jeremiah, grieving with an aching heart
for an empire, unbelieving as it falls apart,
when your thunder goes unheard, we will tend the prophet's word,
and in season, out of season, we will sing your song.

When our wound is left to fester, though the pain goes deep,
when we've sown a hundred whirlwinds, but have yet to reap,
when the platitudes of peace only make our fears increase,
with a poem and a story we will sing your song.

When the palace looks at poverty with scornful eyes,
when the scroll of truth is shredded by a leader's lies,
when the glory of the cross is a propaganda gloss,
in the square and in the senate we will sing your song.

We will break the jar of plenty by the gates of gold,
we will buy a field of promise when the farm is sold,
at the ending of the dream, in the death of self esteem,
at the bank and in the market we will sing your song.

We will praise the grainy granite of the Law's demands,
and the Life-creating, Lover-God with wounded hands;
we will spin your story-line to an empire in decline
and in exile or in honour we will sing your song.

Prayers of the People

Cathy Thomas

Lord, in your mercy . . .
graciously hear us.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Peace be with you!
And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

David Perkins

All are welcome at Christ’s table.
Everyone is welcome at Christ’s table.

Our Story at the Table

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Communion Prayer

David Perkins

The Sharing

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Meditation

With Contrite Heart

Jiyeon McGillicuddy

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Benediction

Rev. Nancy Gowler

*Sung Response

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

431, v.1

Postlude

God of Jeremiah (Kelvingrove)

Jiyeon McGillicuddy

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