


CHRIST AMONG US, The New Covenant

Lent 5; March 17, 2024

Assisted listening devices are available at the sound desk at the back of the sanctuary. 

SILENT PRELUDE

As we continue on this Lenten journey, our faith calls us to walk as Christ did in the wilderness. Take a few moments to contemplate the image of wilderness and the path. Where do you find yourself on this path? Who is with you?

GATHERING

Jeremy Botts, Song Leader

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VT #670

Welcome

Deborah Wetherill

Call to Worship

Leader: "The days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel. No longer will they teach
their neighbors, or say to one another,
'Know the Lord!' because they will all know me,
from the least to the greatest."

People: This new covenant is being offered to us.

Leader: "The hour has come for the Son of Man
to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a
kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains a single seed. But if it dies,
it produces many seeds."

People: Death must come before resurrection.

A seed fallen to the soil and broken open

can become life for many.

**All: This new covenant is being offered to us:
to lay down our life and follow.**

Leader: The life-giving ways of God placed within
our minds and written on our hearts,
where we are forgiven and our sins
remembered no more, where we are
God's people and God is our God.

—Based on Jeremiah 31 and John 12

Opening Prayer

PRAISING

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

VT #608

Now the Green Blade Rises

VT #353

CONFESSING

Prayer of Confession

Leader: O God, we gather before you,
seeking your mercy.
Hear us, we pray.

People: We confess that we sin against you.

Leader: O God, open us and help us grow.

**People: Stay close to us,
restore us to your truth.**

**All: So that we can cry out with joy,
cleansed in your abundant mercy.**

—Adapted from Psalm 51

Words of Assurance

Music for Meditation

Karin Redekopp Edwards

Prelude in B-flat minor, WTK II (Bach)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Story

Alice Kabira

Scripture Reading

Amanda Olsen

Leader: Listen for the Word of the Lord.

People: Our ears are open.

John 12: 20-33

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Glory and Death”

Richard Gehring

Listening for the Spirit

Music for Reflection

Karin Redekopp Edwards

Prelude in G, Op. 39, No. 5 (Rachmaninoff)

O Love, How Deep, How Broad

VT #303

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

Offering Prayer

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

People: hear our prayer.

Work of the Church

SENDING

There's a Wild Hope in the Wind

VT #828

Words of Blessing

This Week's Activities

Today	Nursery: Nina Lantz, Noah Rhodes	10:00 AM
	Nursery: Dave Lantz, Valerie Kropf	11:30 AM
	Adult Christian Formation	11:30 AM
	• Church History—Ancient to Anabaptism (Sanctuary)	
	Private Recital and Reception	1:00 PM

Tue	Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom	7:00 PM
Wed	Women of the Word Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Worship Commission	7:00 PM
Thu	Menno Men	9:30 AM

Announcements

- Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and also the **next phase of our discernment process** on LGBTQ+ inclusion. Schedule:
 - * **10 AM:** Worship service, beginning with a children's palm processional.
 - * **11:30 AM:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
 - * **11:30 AM:** For the adult Sunday school class, our consultant Janet Elaine Guthrie will lead a discussion of Megan Ramer's "Fashioned in Love" article in the sanctuary.
 - * **12:15 PM:** Lunch provided by the Discernment Planning Team.
 - * **1:00 PM:** Our second discernment café. We'll provide child-care.
- On **Good Friday** (Mar 29), we'll hold a combined Seder and Tenebrae service. You may come for any one or all of the parts.
 - * Noon-6:00 PM **Come and Go:** Anyone who wishes to help cook in any capacity can join the preparation fun.
 - * 6:30 PM **Seder:** Expect a leisurely and informative meal similar to a Passover meal in Jesus' day. Please sign up if you plan to attend so that we know how much food to prepare.
 - * 8:30 PM **Tenebrae Service:** The service includes gospel readings of Jesus' journey to the cross.
- Join us for a **morning of special Easter celebrations** on March 31! We'll start with a brief early service outside the Madison Street entrance at 8:30 AM. Then we'll enjoy a potluck breakfast at 9:00 AM. Our worship service at 10 AM will include joyous singing together, the flowering of the cross, and the celebration of communion.