

Christ Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025



Leaving was easy.
Maybe those rehearsed
apologies will grant you
a roof overhead tonight
not made of stars.

Bone-tired, starving,
you slink towards home,
assumptions the only
clothing you wear.

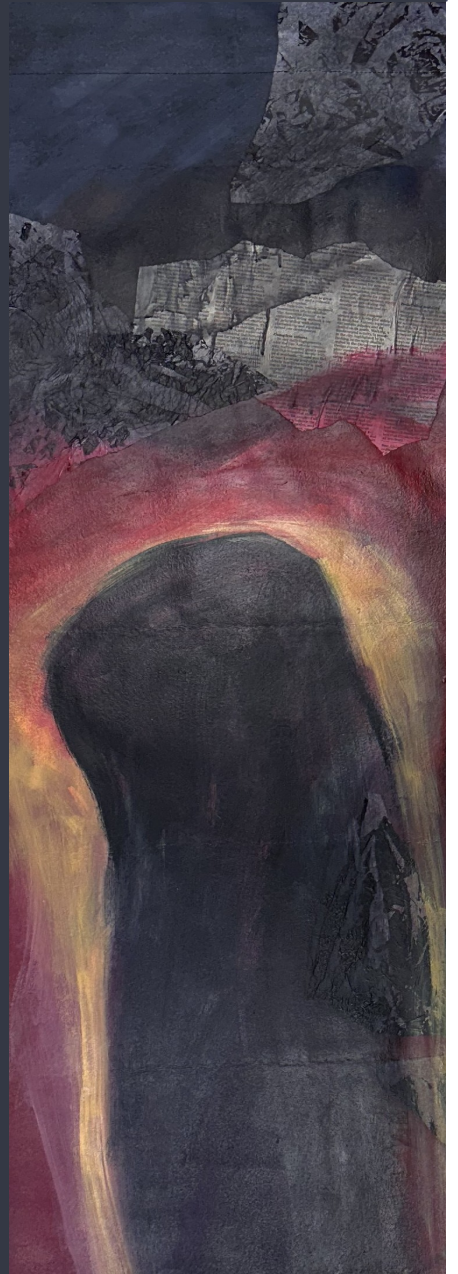
A cloud of dust rushing
towards you hides cheeks
streaked wet with love;
you'd know those
shoulders anywhere.

Pure, solid grace
explodes through him.

Pulled passionately
into new life,
your tears dancing
together now, voices from
the house reach you
shouting, "Prepare the robe!"

Prose by
Rev. Stan Whitten

Artwork by
Mary Overstreet



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH THAT WELCOMES

All are welcome at Christ Lutheran Church. We emphasize grace, forgiveness, and the reality that God is love. The teachings and example of Jesus call us to love one another and to be an inclusive and affirming community for people of every culture, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, relationship status, family makeup, and spiritual background. No matter what challenges you're facing – physical, mental, spiritual, economic, emotional, moral, or otherwise – we invite you to experience God's grace with us. There is a place for you here.

THE IN-PERSON CLC ESSENTIALS

Restrooms are in the Narthex and in the Education Building.

The **Nursery** is available from 9:15 a.m. through the end of the late service.

Attendance Registration Cards are located in the pew racks. We ask everyone in attendance, visitors and members, to fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Audio Receivers for the hearing impaired are available in the Narthex.

Name Tags are in the Narthex. Whether it's your first time visiting or you've been attending here for decades, consider wearing one to help us get to know each other.

THE VIRTUAL CLC ESSENTIALS

Please tune in each Sunday for livestream worship at 10:30 a.m. by clicking the YouTube button below.

Online giving is easy! Simply click the Offering button below, and it will take you to the giving page to make your offering when you are ready. You can also use your phone to scan this QR code, and it will take you to our donation page at <https://clcah.org/contact-us/give-online/> or you can use Venmo to donate: @clcah09



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GATHERING

PRELUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory - Bowring

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK (10:30 a.m.) Katie Evans with Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services)

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, how incredible is your love! We have been made new by your forgiveness and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days.
Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

Pew Bible/Old Testament page #197

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Pew Bible/New Testament page #181

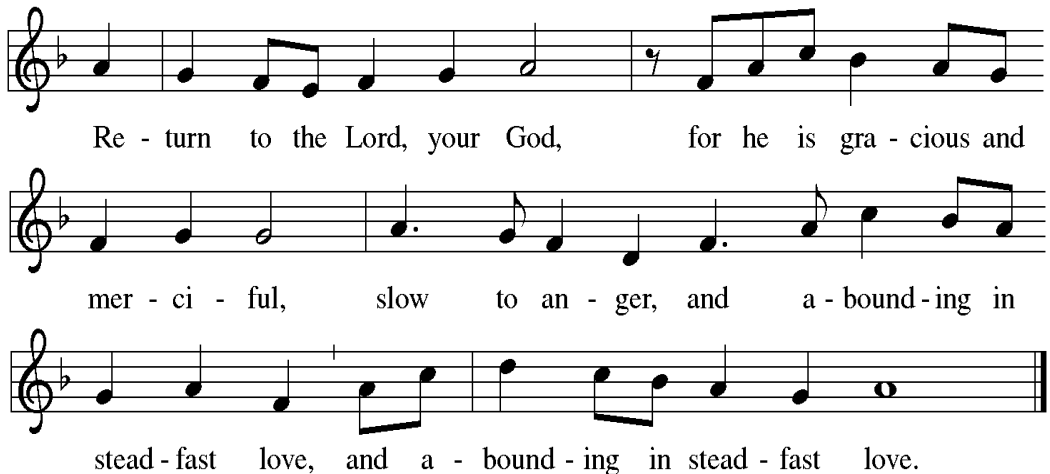
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 a.m.)

Director of Faith Formation, Carrie Jowers

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Leslie Price

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The congregation is invited to kneel as able.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We pray for those in need, within our own community and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Our petitions end with "God, in your mercy," and the congregation responds: "**receive our prayer.**"*

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC (10:30 a.m.) *Wondrous Love* - arr. Wagner
Sanctuary Choir

OFFERING

Christ Lutheran designates 20% of your Sunday offerings to our benevolence partners who make a direct impact on the lives of people in our world who need it most. See the second page for more information on giving virtually from your phone or go to clcab.org and click on the donate button. You can also donate via Venmo: @clcab09

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION LITURGY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

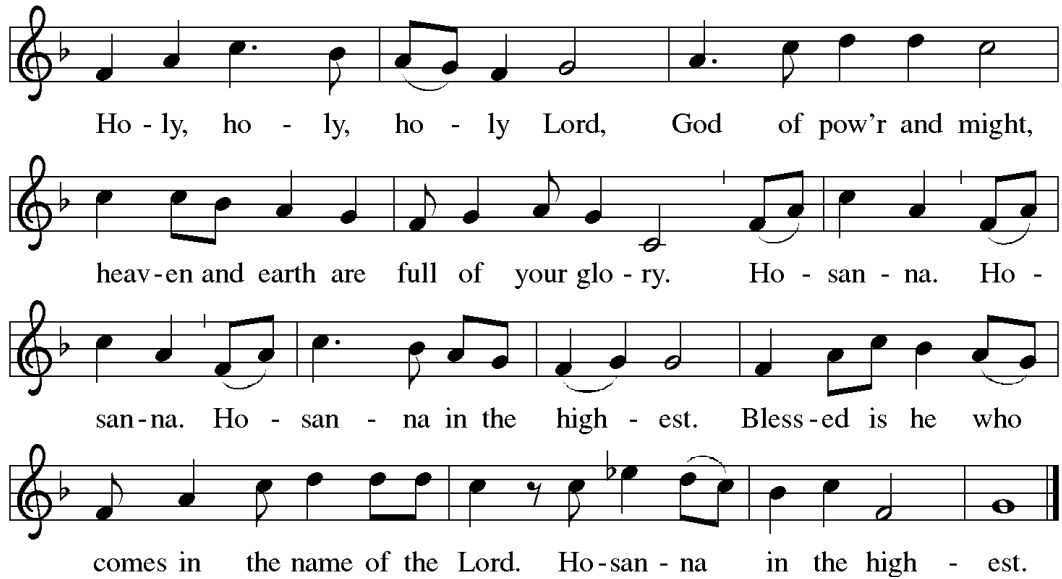
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

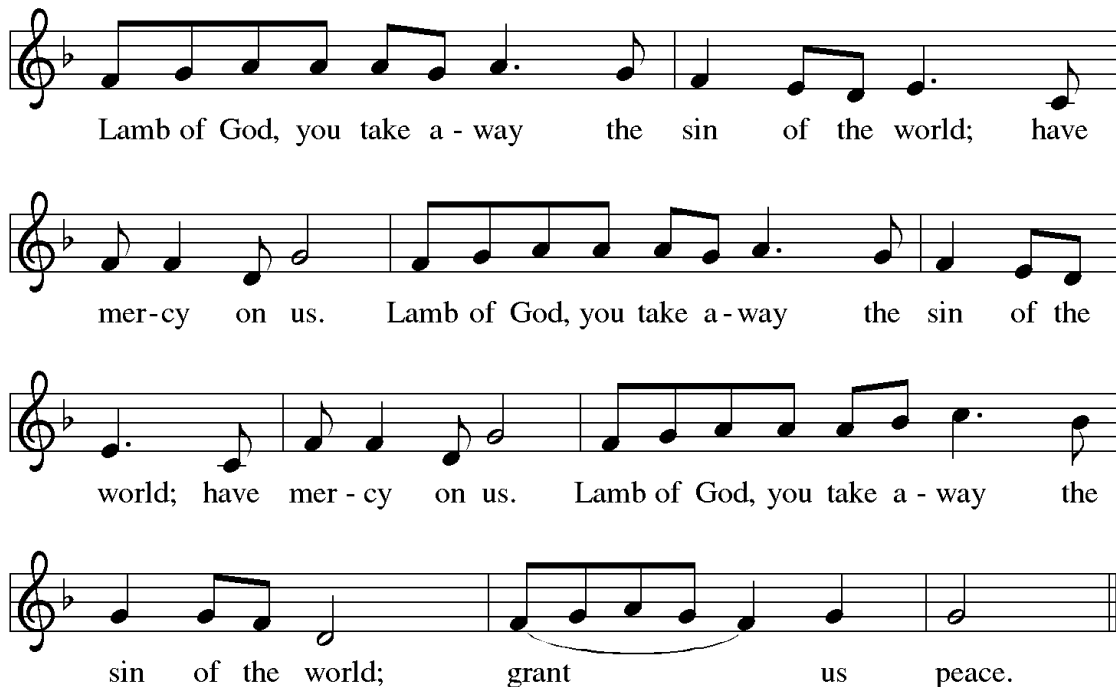
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and ever. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Two thousand years ago Jesus ate with sinners and those whom others scorned. He still does. None of us is worthy, except by God's grace. No matter what you have done or what your present condition, Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another.

The gathered faithful have a choice to commune at the front of the sanctuary by intinction or in their seats with individual communion packets available at the entrance to the sanctuary. With intinction, the bread is placed in your hand for you to dip in the wine. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion from a minister where you are seated. Gluten-free wafers are found on the small table next to the usher stand for anyone who needs them.

COMMUNION (10:30 a.m.)

God Be In My Head - Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW #324

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Chant Heroique - Blake

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Assisting Ministers

Lectors

8:30 a.m.

Pastor Leslie Price

Pastor Howard Stendahl

James Ehler

Sarah Borrell

10:30 a.m.

Pastor Leslie Price

Pastor Howard Stendahl

Carrie Jowers

Vaughnell Gray

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Michael Fischer

Vice President Bryan Woods

Treasurer Jeff Timm

Secretary Paul Pfeifer

At-Large Member

At-Large Member

At-Large Member

Rhonda Barsalou

James Ehler

Edna Robbins

STAFF

Senior Pastor

Pastor

Director of Faith Formation

Director for Day School Ministry

Accountant & Office Manager

Minister of Mission & Outreach

Communications Coordinator

Director of Music Ministry

Organist

Youth Choir Director

Youth Choir Accompanist

Custodians

AV Tech

Event Coordinator

Nursery Attendant

Rev. Leslie Price

Rev. Howard Stendahl

Carrie Jowers

Dana Ferraro

Ainslee Ford

Deacon Lisa Diana

Lori Harris

Dr. Daniel Long

Jeff Hammack

Mary Patino

Sharon Wiedemann

Sam Tenorio & Justin Martin

Jesus Garcia

Carolyn Dufelmeier

Clara Tenorio

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION SEARCH COMMITTEE

Adam Braaten, Patti Lynch, Scott Merkord, Amanda Peterson, Natalie Stone (chair), Jeff Timm, Jennifer von Durckheim, and Pastor Leslie

WELCOME TEAM

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Bob Logan, Mary Lynn Logan - Chair, Bob & Karen Corder, Bill Chavers, Joan Woods, Mary Overstreet, Edna Robbins, Ida Marie Schultz, Ulf Balldin, Heather Rosenquist, Tracy Anderson, Natalie Stone, Kathy Dicke, and Steve Wright

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to Mary Overstreet for the beautiful new series of banners adorning our sanctuary which depict our Lenten theme "Hearts of Mercy." Thanks to John Malitz's crew for hanging them.

TODAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Preschool - 7th grade meet upstairs in the education building in their designated classroom.
- 9:30 a.m. - Faith University - We welcome Katie Evans, the Manager of Church and Community Relations at Upbring. Come and learn more about Upbring.
- 9:30 a.m. - Primrose Corner - casual Adult Education, Primrose House
- 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Fair Trade Sale, CrossWay

Monday, March 31

THIS WEEK

- 9:00 a.m. Money Counters, Parlor
- Tuesday, April 1
- 9:00 a.m. Quilters, Primrose House
 - 6:45 p.m. CLC Book Club, Parlor
- Wednesday, April 2
- Noon Lenten Worship in Columbarium
 - 12:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall
 - 5:30 p.m. Gloria Choir, Sanctuary
 - 5:30 p.m. Angelicus Choir, Children's Chapel
 - 5:45 p.m. Conversational Spanish, Parlor
 - 6:00 p.m. Lenten Family Worship in Fellowship Hall
 - 6:15 p.m. Lenten Dinner in Fellowship Hall

Lenten Wednesdays

Hearts of Mercy



Noon - March 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9
12:00 p.m. - Worship in Columbarium
12:30 p.m. - Lunch in Fellowship Hall

Evening - March 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9
6:00 p.m. - Family Worship in Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. - Dinner in Fellowship Hall

FAITH UNIVERSITY

Today – Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services) - We welcome Katie Evans, the Manager of Church and Community Relations at Upbring. Come and learn more about this Lutheran agency which represents us and needs our support. Learn how it was founded, how it is funded, and more about the work that they do locally, nationally, and around the globe to offer mercy to those who are hurting and in need.

- **April 6 & 13 – Stories of Mercy** – What do King David, the woman at the well, the Lost Sheep, Hagar, the Prodigal Son, and the Ninevites all have in common? . . . They were in desperate need of grace and mercy . . . a gift they received from our everlasting God. As part of our Lenten journey “Hearts of Mercy,” we will spend two sessions of adult education visiting various stories of mercy found in our holy scriptures. We will reflect upon what these stories teach us, both about how to receive mercy and how to offer mercy.
- **April 20 - No Class, Join us for Easter Breakfast instead!**

FAIR TRADE

Today, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m., CrossWay

Hollye Schwartz is continuing her fair trade ministry after closing her store, bringing items that were lovingly made by people around the world in developing countries. Shop for exotic teas and coffees, handmade gift items, and chocolate.

CLC BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 1, 6:45 p.m., Primrose House

Readers! You are invited to join the CLC Book Club to discuss *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang. Questions? Check with Edna Robbins.

JOSEPH’S SONS

Monday, April 7, 6:30 p.m., Longhorn Café at 1003 Rittiman Rd.

Calling all CLC Men! We will meet for a meal and fellowship. We will have a short Bible study. If you have questions or need directions, please contact Joe Diana.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 a.m., Bill Miller BBQ, 410 and Nacogdoches

All men of the church are invited to a short Bible study on the upcoming Sunday gospel. Breakfast tacos and fellowship at Bill Miller BBQ located at 410 and Nacogdoches Road.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Education Wing

Confirmation Class will meet upstairs in the education wing with Pastor Leslie and Ms. Carrie. There will be pizza at the start if you want an easy dinner while we learn and grow in our faith together. We will be studying the Lord’s Prayer.

THE GATHERING

Thursday, April 10, 9:30 a.m., Bird Bakery

A group for moms whose children range from birth to college age. The Gathering is a place where moms can chat about anything and everything. It's a group to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh and just enjoy making and growing friendships. For more information, contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers.

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, April 13, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Education Wing


Join us for a special celebration in the grassy area outside Fellowship Hall! Together, we'll learn about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, wave palm branches, and take part in fun activities that bring the story to life. There will be songs, crafts, and a joyful procession—perfect for children of all ages! Come and experience the excitement of Holy Week as we prepare our hearts for Easter. We'd love to see you there!



Palm Sunday

April 13 | 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Livestream at 10:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

April 17
7:00 p.m.


"Do this in remembrance of me"

Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

April 18

7:00 p.m.



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 20



BREAKFAST
9:15 A.M.

WORSHIP
8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

EGG HUNT
10:00 A.M.

New Member Sunday

APRIL 27

Please join us as we welcome a group of new members during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Come meet and greet these new members of our church family during a reception in the CrossWay following the worship service.

Week Four of Lent **Your Hearts of Mercy Can Bring Hope to a Refugee Family**

Despite the enormous obstacles placed in their path by the loss of government funds to help refugees, Global Refuge continues to serve the refugees who so desperately seek help in resettling after fleeing the violence and crime in their home countries.

Whom do they serve? Afghan allies who risked their lives to aid U.S. troops, Ukrainians, Syrians, Somalians, Burmese, Congolese, and refugees from South and Central America – in short, folks fleeing countries where there is turmoil and their lives and livelihoods are endangered.

The cash assistance the refugees have been promised is no longer available after the government cut funding to Global Refuge. Andrew Steele, Global Refuge Chief Development and Mobilization Officer, says, “Legally, refugees are bound to take the first job they are offered, and language barriers can severely limit those offers. That’s why you see physicians and teachers working as janitors and dishwashers.” He notes, “Most of the refugees are so determined to survive and thrive and have undergone so much trauma that they work very hard to integrate and succeed.”

The staff at Global Refuge is passionately dedicated to helping the refugees under their care. Although their Programs Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator was among the staff that lost jobs after DOGE cut off their funding, she sent out a final plea for help before she left her post. Here are some of the urgent client needs she mentioned in her note:

- HEB gift Cards
- Hygiene Kits
- Diapers and Pull-Ups
- Sanitary Pads
- Bus Passes
- Monetary Donations

Global Refuge is in crisis. It requires Hearts of Mercy. Our congregation has a long history of sharing its merciful hearts with those in need, as Jesus would have us do. These words from Matthew 25:35-40 are our guidepost in Lent, and in everyday life. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

How to give to Global Refuge:

- Use your designated Lenten Offering envelopes
- Mark your check or regular envelope “Global Refuge”
- Go online to www.clcah.org and select “Global Refuge” on the Donation page
- Venmo us @clcah09 and write “Global Refuge” in the notes