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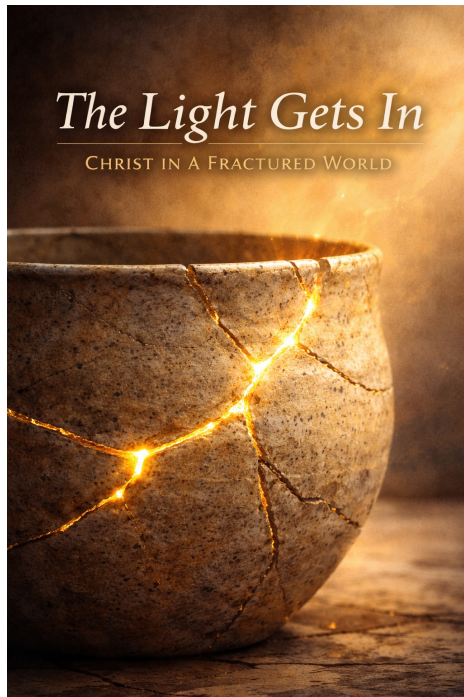
arr. Diane Bish

**Christ Church United Methodist**



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Second Sunday of Lent | March 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Trinity Chimes**

**Prelude**     *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**\*Call to Worship:**

**One:** In the shadow of doubt, in the seeking of truth,

**All: The light gets in.**

**One:** In the dark of grief, in the night of the soul,

**All: The light gets in.**

**One:** In a world of struggle, God's light walks among us,

**All: For God so loved the world that light walked into our darkness and love refused to let us go.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**     159 *Lift High the Cross*

**CRUCIFER**

**REFRAIN**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God of God in unity combine.  
**(REFRAIN)**

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.  
**(REFRAIN)**

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.  
**(REFRAIN)**

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **(REFRAIN)**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Holy God, we knock at the door of your love, and you throw it open wide. We hesitate at the threshold of your grace – yet it is already everywhere, holding us. Remind us that we are welcome. Our questions are welcome. Our struggles, fears, hopes, doubts, and dreams are welcome. Breathe your Spirit of peace into us so that we may step fully into the love that welcomes us, exactly where we are. Amen.**

### **Scripture Lesson**          Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
The Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold the one who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper;  
**the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day  
**nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
and will keep your life.

**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.**

### **Children's Moment**

*All children are invited to come forward for our lesson, Children's Sunday School happens after the children's moment, pick up is in the courtyard.*

**Music of Preparation**      *A Communion Invitation*  
Craig Courtney  
The Chancel Choir

**Gospel Lesson**          John 3:1-17

**Sermon**      **The Light Gets In: Christ in a fractured world – How do you know?**

Pastor Beth Rambikur

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Invitation to Offering**

## Offering

**Offertory** *All Creatures of Our God and King*  
arr. Donald Busarow

### \*Doxology 95

*Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*Offertory Prayer

#### \*Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always  
and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty  
God, creator of heaven and earth.**

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or you  
had formed the earth, from everlasting to  
everlasting, you alone are God.**

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna  
in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn**     2236 *Gather Us In*  
GATHER US IN

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in - the blind and the strong;  
Gather us in - the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wind of compassion,  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion

Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven, light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### 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. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn      369 *Blessed Assurance*

#### ASSURANCE

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

### REFRAIN

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

### REFRAIN

### \*Benediction      666 *Shalom to You*

#### SHALOM

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends,  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

### Postlude      *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Paul Mickelson

**Liturgist:** Paula Jameson

**Stephen Minister:** Michael Edwards

**Golf Cart Driver:** Ray Roman

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made  
**this service possible!**

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“Lift High the Cross”

Words: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

“Gather Us In”

Words: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13)

“Blessed Assurance”

Words: Fanny J Crosby, 1873

“Shalom to You”

Words: Trad. Hebrew blessing trans. by Roger N Deschner, 1982

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