



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 2, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical

Pam Stover

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, so that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

Greeting

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



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



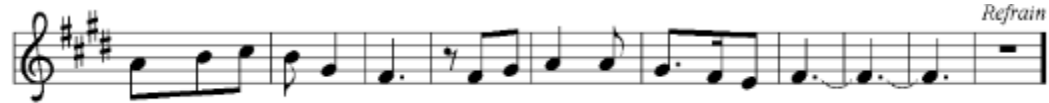
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



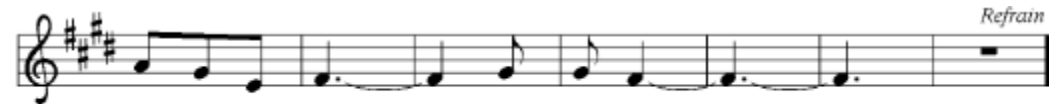
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed

our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P Amen.

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

L The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

L The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God!**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

P The Holy Gospel according to.... **C** Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him.

⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C** Praise to you, O Christ!

Hymn

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb & Shepherd"

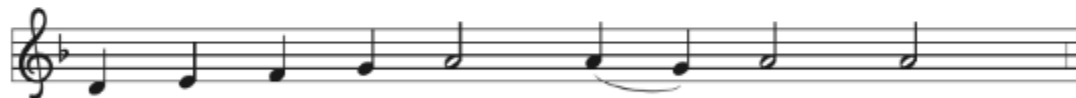
ACS 954



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



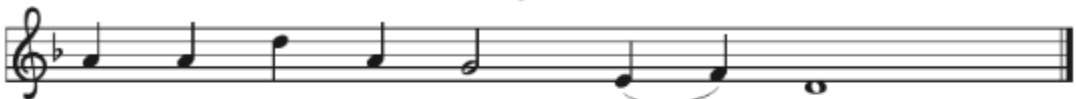
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

The Apostles' Creed

C 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.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Paula Gruhler, Lisa Boltz, Eric Lewis, Phillip Hart, Staci, Carolyn, Suzette, Steve Asmus, Cory Kaczor, Sam Kenney, Sandy McPherson....** and all those we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people, especially, Nancy Myerholtz. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation is presented on three staves. The first staff is labeled 'President:' and 'Congregation:'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give'.

President: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with

you. Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:



thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

HOLY

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ELW 815

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers *in their homes*. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW 318

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“Making Jesus Known”



You're invited to join us for worship at one of our TWO services, either at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. You can attend in person or tune in via Facebook Live. We can't wait to see you – and feel free to **BRING A FRIEND!**

Interested in becoming a member? Please fill out the information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We would love to welcome you into our church family!

When God Breaks the Rules: A Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? This is what we are looking at in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study series. Join us for our new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We are learning about how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus' love. Join us this Thursday **at 1:00 p.m.** in the council room for our journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! All are welcome!

Walking the Jesus Way: Lessons from the Didache

Adult Forum this March: Walking the Jesus Way (Lessons from the Didache)
It's not just about hearing Bible verses on Sunday only to have them go in one ear and out the other, but about a way of life—a life shaped in Jesus' likeness. So, what could it look like to live the Jesus way of life today? And what wisdom can we gather from the early disciple community? That's what our Sunday Adult Forum will be exploring in our next series, running through March and into April, which we're calling, "Walking the Jesus Way." This series will make use of an ancient document that goes back to the late first century or the early second, a writing called "The Didache," which means "The Teaching [of the Apostles]." It may well be as old as some of the later books of the New Testament itself, and it gives a glimpse not only of the early church's life and witness but also offers a pattern for our own lives walking in the Jesus way. This Lent, as we focus especially on rededicating and recentering our lives on the way of Jesus, this series will be a great chance both to learn some ancient church history and to connect to present-day life application. We hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall from 9:00-9:50 a.m. for this series

throughout March and leading up to Holy Week in April, as together we *walk the Jesus way!*

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will begin March 4th @ 8:30 am. We will be doing a Kristi McLelland study "The Gospel on the Ground"- Christ has ascended- now what? We will learn how the remaining disciples chose a new member to replace Judas and then became organized to begin spreading the Gospel without Christ present. This is a 7-week study, and you will need to order the study guide before class. Please sign up at the kiosk. If you have any questions, please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. Bring a friend!!

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Suppers beginning on **Wednesday, March 5**. We invite you to start the season of Lent with a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship. The Ash Wednesday service, at 7:00 p.m., will offer time for prayer, communion, and the imposition of ashes, marking the beginning of this sacred season. Before the service, we will gather for a warm and inviting Soup Supper starting at 5:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect as we journey together through Lent. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know what you can bring. We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

Social Action Ministry Invites You to “Have Mercy” and Share It Boldly This Lent Weekly in our worship life, we pray, sing, and confess our need for it: the mercy of God. From the ancient call-and-response rhythm of the Kyrie, “Lord, have mercy...” to our sung acclamation before the gospel, “Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful...” to the prayer petitions and well-known hymns of centuries past, we are grounded in the mercy of God. And as Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Plain, we are called to “be merciful, just as your Father in merciful” (Luke 6:36). Mercy is both our hope and our calling, and the church’s season of Lent is a fitting time to be focused again on both of those since these forty days leading to Holy Week point us toward God’s mercy poured out for us in the cross and resurrection of Jesus. With all of that in mind, the Social Action Ministry invites you to make a statement this Lent that calls to mind both our prayer to God and Jesus’ instruction to us to “have mercy.” These new stickers and lapel buttons, each featuring the simple message, “Have mercy,” will be available in the Gathering Space all throughout Lent, and we would invite your suggested donation for one of \$5.00, which can just go in the slotted box alongside the display, and all our proceeds will go to the ministry of Isaiah 117 House as they seek to show mercy to children in Northwestern Ohio who are going through foster placement (read more about their work in a separate article in this newsletter!). We hope you’ll boldly put one of these stickers or buttons on something you wear or carry around with you as a way to start a conversation, prompt a faith conversation, or to remind you both of God’s grace and

our calling to be merciful people. Get yours in the Gathering Space and help support Isaiah 117 House!

Community of Christ will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, March 7, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We invite you to give the gift of life by donating blood and helping those in need. Every donation can make a difference in someone's life, and your support is deeply appreciated. Please consider setting aside some time to donate. Together, we can help save lives in our community. We hope to see you there!

Visitation ministry **Cookie Sunday: A Sweet Opportunity to Share!** **Sunday March 9!** Join us as we hand out bags of delicious cookies after both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. These cookies are a great way to express your appreciation to a friend, thank a co-worker for their hard work, or brighten a neighbor's day with a little treat. And don't worry; there will be plenty of cookies just for you to enjoy as well! Embrace this opportunity to spread joy and connection in our community!

Fellowship Adult Dinners for 8, March 15th: Please join us for a fun night of dinners for 8. These dinners are a great way to meet people or possibly get to know more about your fellow church members. You think you know people then you find out the person you've been sitting next to at church every week works in the Empire State Building! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know if you would like to host. The committee will let you know which home you're going to, and the hosts will call you with the time and menu and ask you what you would like to bring.

Join the Social Action Committee to help families with food insecurity.

Join us as we assist the Islamic Food Bank on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 10:30 am to noon as we fill weekender food bags for area school children. The Islamic Food Bank provides these bags that contain breakfast, lunch, and dinner items for school children to take home on Fridays. Children and their families from Toledo Public, Maumee, Washington Local, and Perrysburg Schools have come to rely on these food donations that the Islamic Food Bank has been providing since 2014. They now provide over 2500 bags every month during the school year! We only have space for 15 people for this activity so sign up quickly at the kiosk in the Gathering Area. Please complete one of the volunteer information forms next to the sign-up sheet and bring it with you to the event. Or complete it online beforehand at this link:

<https://islamicfoodbank.org/volunteer/> All ages are welcome. Those under 18 and don't have proof of age ID, require a parental or guardian signature on the volunteer form. Islamic Food Bank 1804 Monroe Street Toledo, Ohio 43604

Please mark your calendars! The Concert Committee welcomes you to join us on *Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.* We are hosting the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. A free-will offering will be taken to support Lutheran Disaster Relief and the Community of Christ building fund. 100% of donations through the Lutheran Disaster Relief Response go to services. Zero dollars are spent on administration.

Calling all Servants and Cookie Bakers for Kairos Cookies!

Would you consider baking cookies for the upcoming Kairos Prison Ministry being held in March at the Toledo Correctional Institute as a tangible way to share God's love? **Mission:** Kairos Prison Ministry is an intensive 3.5 days "in-prison" retreat designed to bring Jesus' healing power to those learning about Him. **What is the ask:** Two dozen cookies for EACH man. The big goal is to serve God's love to 650 men!! That's 15,600 cookies! **When:** Cookies are due on March 22, 2025. **Can I serve without baking:** YES! You can donate \$25 to cover the cost of a box of 10 dozen frozen chocolate chip cookies from Gordon's and leave the baking to us! **How do I sign up:** Signup sheet at the kiosk, with 1) Your name 2) How many dozen cookies you can bake 3) Where you'll drop off the cookies 4) OR if you are donating cash/check towards the purchase of Gordon's cookies. Make checks payable to Community of Christ Church, adding Kairos Cookie Ministry in memo line.

If you are baking, please drop off the cookies on MARCH 22, 2025, at either: Heritage Church of God, 3520 Strayer Rd., Maumee. OH from 10 a.m.-noon at the front entrance. Sarah Roe, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 6105 N. Winding Way, Swanton, OH on the front porch. ****Should you need special arrangements or have questions, please contact Rose Ackerman at 419-308-6808 or Deb Guzman at 419-345-6867.**

Kairos Guidelines: ** No powdered sugar or icing/frosting** Raisins/nuts are allowed as well as chocolate chips, M&M's, Reese's pieces. Using packaged cookie mix or pre-mixed cookie dough is fine as well. Please do not send burnt or blemished cookies as these are intended to represent God's perfect love. Place 2 dozen cookies in a 1-gallon Ziplock bag (no plates, boxes, etc.). Be certain cookies are fully cooled before packaging, so they don't stick together. **PLEASE PRAY!** As you prepare your cookies, pray for the men who will receive the cookies. Your prayers and generosity are greatly appreciated!



**Altar Flowers are given by Michael & Cammie Abraham
in Celebration of Emma's 18th Birthday!! ♡♡**



2025 Altar Flower Sponsorships Available The 2025 Altar Flower sponsorship weekends are open for selection. Tags and envelopes are available in the hallway to the left as you enter through the front doors. For office tracking, once you've chosen your weekend, *please leave the tag on the bulletin board, do not take it home.*

To ensure your sponsorship is included in the bulletin, payment envelopes must be submitted by Sunday before your selected weekend. For any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the church office. Your support is truly appreciated—thank you!

This Week

Visitation Ministry
Monday, March 3, 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, March 4, 8:30 a.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, March 4, 10:00 a.m.
Social Action Ministry
Wednesday, March 5, 10:00 a.m.
Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.
Choir Practice
Wednesday, March 5, 8:00 p.m.

VM Cookie Baking/Packing
Thursday, March 6, 9:00 a.m.
Worship and Music
Thursday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
Thursday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.
Blood Drive
Friday, March 7, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
VM Cookie Packing
Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message

or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!