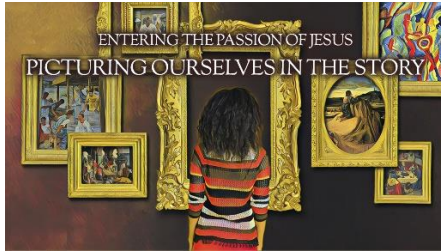


## *Lent & Easter Services*



The theme for Lent this year is "Entering the Passion of Jesus." In this season of Lent, we will intentionally put a "frame" around the scenes of Jesus' last week. In looking at these "freeze-frames" of Jesus' life, we will also "frame" our own lives, in a way that we might be better able to see what really matters.

Ash Wednesday Service - March 5 at 6:30 PM - Preparing the Canvas  
Lent 1 with Sacrament of Holy Communion - March 9 at 9:45 am - The Parade: Risking Reputation  
Lent 2 - March 16 at 9:45 am - The Temple - Risking Righteous Anger  
Lent 3 - March 23 at 9:45 am - The Lesson - Risking Challenge  
Lent 4 - March 30 at 9:45 am - The First Dinner - Risking Rejection  
Lent 5 - April 6 at 9:45 am - The Last Supper - Risking the Loss of Friends  
PALM Sunday - April 13 at 9:45 am - The Garden: Risking Temptation  
Maundy Thursday - April 17 at 6 pm - In Remembrance of Me  
Community Good Friday - April 18 at 2 pm - Location TBD  
Easter Sunrise - April 20 at 6:30 am - Hoover Cemetery, Mt. Wolf  
Easter Breakfast - April 20 at 7:30 am - Starview UCC Fellowship Hall  
Easter Service with Holy Communion & Baptism - April 20 at 9 am

### Resources

- Assurance of Forgiveness: *A Good Measure: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C* was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. (Adapted by Rev. Laura Baker)
- Prayer of Confession (adapted by Rev. Baker), Prayer of the People and Benediction: Church of Scotland <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-february/sunday-23-february-2025-seventh-sunday-after-epiphany-year-c#topic6>
- Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication: Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year* (p. 43). \Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

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February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany  
Service of Word and Sacrament

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### **PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

### **GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 37:1-9)

**Pulpit Side:** We'll not fret about the wicked or envy those who do wrong.  
For like grass, they soon fade away.  
Like spring flowers, they soon wither.

**Congregation:** **Let's live God's way!**

**Lectern Side:** Trust in the Lord and do good.  
Then we shall live safely in the land and prosper.  
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give one's heart their desires.

**Congregation:** **Let's live God's way!**

**Pulpit Side:** Let's commit everything we do to the Lord.  
Trust him, and he will help!  
The Lord will make our innocence radiate like the dawn,  
and the justice of our cause will shine like the noonday sun.

**Congregation:** **Let's live God's way!**

**Lectern Side:** Be still in God's presence and wait patiently for God to act.  
Let's not worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

**Congregation:** **Let's live God's way!**

**Pulpit Side:** Stop being angry! Let us turn from our rage!  
Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm.  
For the wicked will be destroyed,  
but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.

**Congregation:** **Let's live God's way!**

**All people:** ***We will trust in the Lord and do good.  
We will live God's way!***

### **HYMN**

*Living for Jesus*

**Hymnal, #610**

### **PRAYER of CONFESSION**

**All people:** *Teacher of hard truths, hear us as we recall the fraught words and resentments that we harbor in our minds. Forgive us for the harshness of our responses and the unkindness of inaction. Draw us close to the*

*fire of the Holy Spirit, We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they deserve to be treated – as your beloved children. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Sisters and brothers in Christ - I have good news! In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now.

**Congregation:** **This is the good news! We can trust it with our lives. Thanks be to God!**

## PRAISE HYMN

*Amen*

**Blue Hymnal #312**

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”**

## HYMN

*As Grain on Scattered Hillsides*

**Blue Hymnal #491**

## HEBREW READING

**Genesis 45:3-15**

## EPISTLE READING

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 6:27-38**

## SERMON

**Rev. Laura Baker**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Pastor:** God of relationship, we cannot ignore the brokenness of our lives, of our world, of the Church. We declare ourselves "fine" with how things are and long for the encouragement of Your presence as we long to see the transformation of new creation taking place in the communities of our world.

We pray for human relationships, for spouses, partners, parents and children, working encounters and friendships. We give thanks where sharing life with others is supportive, and allows the other to thrive. We remember those whose lives are fraught, frantic, and abusive. Where those of any gender feel their worth questioned by cruel words and threatening hands, may they be led to the support that keeps them safe.

We pray for the relationships of our world. In testing times of war and conflict, communities are tested as those who have been displaced seek new homes and places to shelter. We give thanks for those many communities across the world who have offered refuge to the outsider, offering hospitality that allows stories to blend and develop new ways

to live in harmony with another. We long for the discordant voices of our world to pause and listen to the songs of others. In what they hear, may politicians and tyrants be offered wisdom that seeks the best for all people and not power for themselves.

We pray for Christ's Church, in all its vibrant color, and celebrate the many ways in which the story of Jesus is revealed. Help us to value one another, and to cherish our diversity. In these days when churches unite and close, may the Spirit's comfort be a balm to the pain of life, and the Spirit's inventiveness inspire us in sharing and shaping stories within our new communities. God of relationship, still our hearts, as we patiently wait for the Holy Spirit to lead us in our sharing of Christ's story. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Bulletin Insert**

## ANTHEM

*Rest in the Lord* (Lorenz)

**Chancel Choir**

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

## OFFERING INVITATION

**Liturgist:** God has satisfied the hunger of both our bodies and our souls. Let us share our gifts with all God's creation, that weeping may turn to laughter, and struggle may turn to joy.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

*Accept, O God, the Gifts*

**Blue Hymnal, #379**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All people:** *Merciful God, you bless us beyond measure or belief. May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world. May these gifts nourish all who have need. Amen.*

## HYMN

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

**Blue Hymnal #560**

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** God sows the seeds for love, forgiveness. hope, peace, mercy and justice. May they be found growing in our words and actions, this day and always.

**All people:** *Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
INVITATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**Congregation: And, also with you.**  
 Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
**Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
 People: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
 Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and 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 the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing: Seraphic Hymn*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth; Heav - en and earth are  
 full, are full of the ma - jes - ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is He that com - eth in the  
 name of the Lord, Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. 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. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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

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

Pastor: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*All people: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

**EPICLEPSIS & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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. Amen.

Pastor: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

*All people: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, given for you. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready. (ELEMENTS ARE SHARED)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*All people: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*