



## Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street  
Springfield, Missouri 65806  
(417) 866-5133

March 2025

# The Clarion

The Messenger of Good News

[www.christepiscopalchurch.com](http://www.christepiscopalchurch.com)

## A Different Kind of Easter Vigil

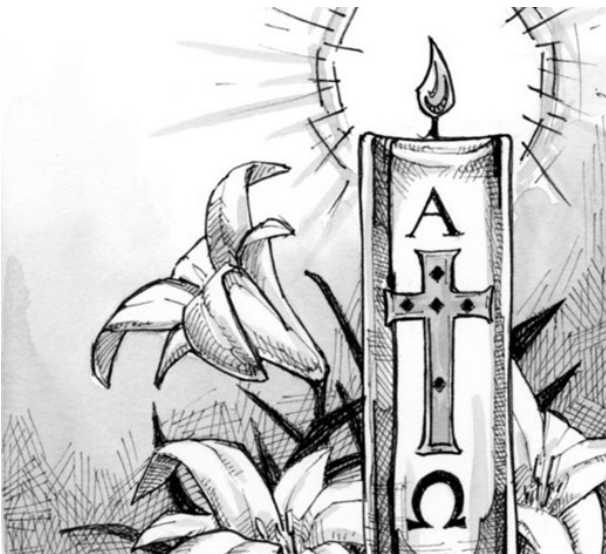
The Great Vigil of Easter is perhaps the most important celebration of Holy Eucharist that we share in the Christian year. In it, the Paschal candle is signed and blessed for the new year. The ancient Exsultet is sung for the only time of the year. Salvation history is hinted at through a number of lengthy readings from the Old Testament. Our baptismal promises are renewed, and we proclaim that all of time in God's creation funnels into and out from the person of Jesus. Sounds pretty important, doesn't it?

But there is a problem. Few people attend this long service (2 hours +), which goes well into the evening before which so much happens on Easter morning. In 2024, 59 people joined us for that service, over 30 of which were choir members, clergy, acolytes, or EM's. So, as important as the message of the Great Vigil is, it isn't reaching many people in its current form.

I would like, therefore, to offer the vigil somewhat differently this year. It will take place in the garden at 7 PM on Holy Saturday (April 19th). It will be roughly an hour in length. All major parts of the service will be represented, although many of them in abbreviated form. We'll have refreshments to share (beer, wine, soda, etc) and we invite any who would like to do so to bring a snack or hors d'oeuvres to share.

The finding of Jesus' tomb to be empty was the first sign of a reality that would change the world. But it was first a moment of joy and wonder for Jesus' friends. Come celebrate this moment with your fellow Christ Church disciples, and help us to make this a night to remember.

*Submitted by  
The Rev. Joe Behen*



### Online Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning live at 10 a.m.  
on our Facebook and YouTube Channel  
(search Christ Church Springfield, MO)

### In-Person Worship

Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist Rite I at  
8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m.

Thursday Evening Holy Eucharist Rite II  
at 5:30 p.m. (with Healing Service the last  
Thursday of the month)

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch 12 p.m.-1 p.m.)



# Credo – I Believe: The Creed in Worship and Music

In 2025, we celebrate a remarkable milestone: 1,700 years of the Nicene Creed. For centuries, this statement of faith has been at the heart of Christian worship, uniting believers across traditions and generations. It has shaped theology, liturgy, and—perhaps most beautifully—music. Few texts have inspired composers as much as the Nicene Creed, leading to some of the most powerful and moving choral works ever written.

At its core, the Nicene Creed is a communal declaration, affirming the core beliefs of Christianity. It’s a text that has echoed through churches for generations, connecting worshippers around the world. But when set to music, the Creed takes on a new life—lifting the words beyond speech and into something deeply expressive, whether through soaring melodies, rich harmonies, or bold, dramatic textures. Throughout history, composers have approached the *Credo* in a variety of ways. Early chant settings gave way to the complex polyphony of Renaissance



First Council of Nicaea, 325 AD

masters like Palestrina and Byrd, whose interwoven vocal lines reflect the depth and richness of the text. Later, composers like Beethoven infused it with passion and grandeur in works like his *Missa Solemnis*, capturing the sheer magnitude of the Creed’s declarations. Even today, new settings continue to emerge, proving that this ancient text still speaks to the hearts and imaginations of musicians.

For choirs, singing the *Credo* is both a challenge and a gift. Unlike other movements of the Mass, the Creed is long, intricate, and packed with meaning. It demands not just technical precision, but a deep connection to the words. Whether performed in the intricate counterpoint of Bach’s *B Minor Mass*, the lush harmonies of a Romantic setting, or the bold rhythms of a contemporary composition, the *Credo* calls singers to do more than just perform—it invites them to proclaim, to embody, and to bring its message to life.

There’s something powerful about voices rising together to sing “*Credo in unum Deum*.” It’s a moment of unity—between choir and congregation, between past and present, between music and belief. As we mark 1,700 years of the Nicene Creed, we celebrate not just its historical and theological significance, but its lasting presence in choral music. Whether in a cathedral or a concert hall, the *Credo* continues to inspire, uplift, and bring people together—just as it has for centuries.

Submitted by Kenny Kabak,  
Director of Music Ministries



Credo from *B minor Mass*, BWV 232  
Johann Sebastian Bach

## Flowers & Fresh Air

The Garden Guild will meet Thursday, March 6th, at noon in Room 102. This is a lively group that enjoys digging in the dirt and creating beauty outside within our church grounds. Come join us, and bring on the warm weather! Contact Kathy at [kathysheppard1950@gmail.com](mailto:kathysheppard1950@gmail.com) with questions.



Garden Guild

## Ash Wednesday

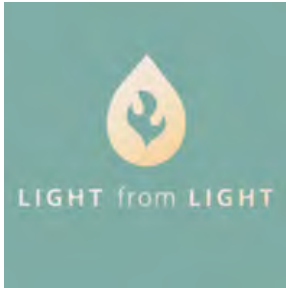
We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday services on March 5th. We will have services at noon and 7 p.m. If you have palm fronds from last year please bring them by Sunday, March 2nd and we will burn them for the ashes.



## Holden Evening Prayer

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 26th, at 6pm in the Choir Room. This beautiful, sung service is led organically by the participants and features accessible, reflective music for all voices. Holden Evening Prayer has become a cherished part of many Christian traditions. In an intimate space, this 30-minute service invites us to come together in song for an evening of prayer, calm, and community.

## March Outreach: An Update on the Lespwa Timoun clinic in Haiti



Despite recent challenges in Haiti, there is still hope through our partnership with Light from Light and the Lespwa Timoun clinic. Our church continues to play a critical role in the clinic's work, serving vulnerable communities in and around Port-au-Prince. While 76% of hospitals in Haiti have closed, the clinic remains open, treating over 1,000 patients per month through its facility, community health workers, and Midwives Program. By God's protection, the clinic staff remain safe.

Thanks in part to your support, the clinic opened a Subacute Malnutrition Unit in 2024, providing inpatient care for children with severe malnutrition. This marks the clinic's first step into inpatient care. The Nutrition Program continues to serve hundreds of children monthly, and nine remote nutrition posts extend their reach. A new doctor was hired last year to meet growing patient demand, and counseling services have expanded to support both patients and staff facing trauma.

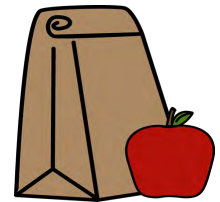
Please continue to keep the staff in Haiti in your prayers. Pray that the Lord would move in the hearts of those of us who have the means to support this lifesaving work. Pray also for God's protection over all of the staff and their families, as the threat of gang violence continues to be a daily reality for them to navigate. Light from Light would like to convey their deep gratitude to the Christ Church community for our longtime support and partnership.

**The Red Bag Brigade** for March will be collecting items that we give out for sack lunches. We gave out over 5000 of these bagged meals in 2024! Our sack lunches consist of water, vienna sausages, small bags of chips, sleeves of crackers, and small fruit cups. We also give out bus passes to those who need them. If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring your donations to church and put in the box by office hallway. Thanks for helping look after our neighbors!



**Helping Hands Casseroles:** Would you like to lend a Helping Hand? As a part of the Hospitality Committee, we make and freeze delicious casseroles that we take to members of the church who have had a surgery, an illness, a baby, or for any other occasion that would warrant a "helping hand" by not having to fix a main course for dinner. Call the church office at 417-866-5133 or Mary Kay at 417-860-6148 to let us know if you or a friend could use a casserole. If you would be interested in delivering a casserole and visiting with the recipient, it would be very meaningful. Our freezer is stocked and there are no needs too small, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Sack Lunch Service Opportunity:** On Wednesday, March 5th we will be packing sack lunches to be distributed at the Veterans Coming Home Center. We invite folks to join in the parish hall after the Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7 p.m. if you are able to help. Thank you for your generosity!

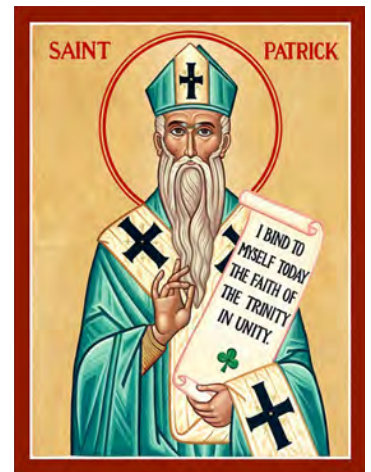


**Seniors at the Symphony:** Springfield Symphony Orchestra's newest outreach program brings residents aged 60 and up of senior communities and facilities to the symphony hall with discounted tickets for seats at the Orchestra Level. Free transportation can be provided for a minimum of 4 people within the Springfield location, though one can always be their own transport. Before a classical concert, folks may enjoy cheese, wine and crackers at the seniors' pre-concert mixer. Call (417) 864-6683 with any questions. Seniors can now attend the symphony with ease and enjoy live music with an excited crowd!



# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Patricia Johnson    | 20 Dr. Robin Luke          |
| 2 Joe Milne           | 20 Diane Johnson           |
| 2 Shawn Larsen        | 20 Scott Carter            |
| 2 Carol Nasby         | 21 Pam Tynes               |
| 2 Derius Mammen       | 21 Jeff Carney             |
| 3 Kenny Kabak         | 22 Asa Hammock             |
| 6 Tim Turner          | 23 Concha Marbut           |
| 7 William Crockett    | 25 Cynthia Hollander       |
| 7 Becky Smith         | 26 Kingston Booth          |
| 7 Derek Matli         | 26 Kimberly Tracy          |
| 8 Payton Marlin       | 27 Emily Biagioni-Paulette |
| 9 John Carnahan       | 27 William Brown           |
| 9 Wayne Carle         | 28 Theodor Jordan          |
| 9 Campbell Kerr       | 28 Penny Gordon-Chumbley   |
| 11 Tiffany Elkins     | 29 Julie Holloway          |
| 13 Sarah Van Hoesen   | 29 William Paulette        |
| 13 Woodson Cockrill   | 29 Kristin Riedy           |
| 13 Laine Scholz       | 30 Michael Pulley          |
| 13 Bryan Nelson       | 30 Daniel Patterson        |
| 14 Dot Brothers       | 30 Susan Smith             |
| 14 Harry Chalfant     | 31 Debra Loyd              |
| 14 Mason Priest       | 31 Emma Ross               |
| 16 Sondra Long        | 31 Claire Owen             |
| 19 Joseph Van Hoesen  |                            |
| 19 Susan Kirby-Elayer |                            |



Join the 30 Plus or Minus group on Wednesday, March 26th at 5:30pm at CEC as we come together to prepare sack lunches for our unhoused neighbors. At 6:00pm we will transition to Holden Evening Prayer, followed by dinner around 6:30, and Lenten programming at 7:00pm. Come for one part of the evening or stay for it all – we'd love to see you there!



All women of the parish are invited to drop by for coffee and conversation on Saturday, March 8, from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Neighbor's Mill Bakery & Café (located 1435 E Independence St. #110, Springfield MO). Incidentally March 8 is International Women's Day! We look forward to gathering together.



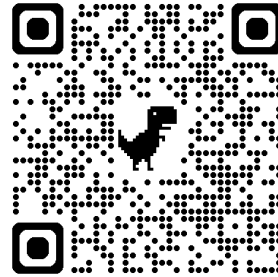
The March Men's Fellowship evening will be held on Friday, March 28th at Vantage Rooftop Lounge (located 260 E McDaniel St.) from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Please contact Tracy Hall at TracyHall.BSAE@gmail.com with any questions. See you then!

## Farewell Event for Bishop Bruce

On Saturday, March 15th, Christ Church will host a Diocesan farewell event for Bishop Bruce from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will begin with a service of Holy Eucharist at 1 p.m. in the nave/sanctuary, followed by a potluck in the parish hall lasting until 4 p.m. The Diocese of West Missouri will provide the main dish, vegetable trays, and mac and cheese, and we are all invited and encouraged to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share (see below). To RSVP, scan the QR Code to the right and let us know how many will attend the **Southern Potluck**.

Last names beginning with (please bring enough to feed 10 people):

- **A-G:** Salads (Potato, green, pasta, cole slaw, etc.)
- **H-L:** Fruit (Salad, tray, jello, etc.)
- **M-P:** Baked Beans or Potato Casserole
- **Q-R:** Rolls and Butter
- **S-W:** Desserts
- **X-Z:** Chips and Dip



Bishop Farewell RSVP



The Church Book Club meets in the church library at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The book for March is "Dissolution" by CJ Samson. In April we will be reading, "The Edge" by David Baldacci and in May we'll read "Fire Weather" by John Valiant. Please join us (even if you haven't finished the book).



Next to New is happy to accept your donations of spring and summer clothing and accessories during our business hours: 11-5 on Tuesdays-Fridays and 10-4 on Saturdays. Currently our fall and winter selection is on sale to make room for the new season. And thank you for holding your fall and winter donations for us until the end of the summer. You know from previous donations that our storage area is very small!



This committee will meet on Thursday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. We will be discussing what makes a church welcoming and inviting, and share what is happening at Christ Church. We would love to entertain any thoughts from new members or visitors and hear why Christ Church is for you. Treats will be served! Please email Kathy at kathyshppard1950@gmail.com with any questions.



### Daily Morning Prayer

Start your day with us in prayer! Tune into Facebook Live for Morning Prayer every Monday through Thursday at 9am. This is a great way to center yourself, connect with God, and set a positive tone for the day ahead. Even better, you can join us from wherever you are, whether it be on the go, at home, or at work. We hope to see you online!



### Pancake Supper Fundraiser

Join us for our annual Pancake Supper Fundraiser in celebration of Shrove Tuesday—your last chance to carb-load before the big 40-day stretch! Come to the Parish Hall and enjoy endless pancakes while supporting the St. Cecilia Choir on Tuesday, March 4th, from 5:30-7:00pm. Admission is donation-only. Did we mention it's all-you-can-eat? Let the kids serve you dinner for a change. You've earned it!



### DC Choir Trip T-Shirts

Show your excitement for the St. Cecilia Choir's DC trip by purchasing a special trip t-shirt for \$20! Wear it to church on Sunday, March 9th to cheer on our young singers. Pick up an order form (available throughout the building), complete it, and return it with payment to Kenny Kabak. Proceeds help offset trip costs. Thanks for your support!



The Second Sunday Brunch for March will be March 9th. We encourage you to join in the parish hall after the 10 a.m. service for food and fellowship. If you would like to bring a fruit, casserole, or other brunch dish to share please contact Kathy Sheppard at [kathysheppard1950@gmail.com](mailto:kathysheppard1950@gmail.com).

### New Members and Visitors at Christ Church

This brunch there will be "reserved tables" in room 102 for all visitors and new members. Let's enjoy a delicious meal together.

## Lenten Evening Prayer, Soup, and Programs

We invite all to join us for our evening Lenten programs each Wednesday in Lent. Our first evening with prayer, a soup supper, and Lenten programs is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12th, and will continue every Wednesday with April 9th being our last evening Lenten program. Sign-up sheets for those who would like to bring soup and bread to share can be found on the bulletin board across from the front office. Evening Prayer will begin at 6 p.m. followed by soup and bread at 6:30, and will conclude with adult and youth Lenten programs beginning at 7 p.m.



### Vestry 2025

Kris Wolford, *Sr. Warden*  
 Kenny Ross, *Jr. Warden*  
 Julia Taylor, *Secretary*  
 Kathy Alexander  
 Austin Boyland  
 Jenny Edwards  
 Ben Fisher  
 Nancy Hopkins  
 Mary Luke  
 Evelyn Mangan  
 Frank Miller  
 Kathy Sheppard

### Staff

The Rev. Joe Behen, *Rector*  
 The Rev. Katherine Mansfield, *Associate Rector*  
 Mary Christiano, *Handbell Choir Director*  
 Franz Ginsberg, *Director of Operations*  
 Jennifer Hendrickson, *Director of Finance*  
 Raisa Hurtado-Netzer, *Office and Communications Coordinator*  
 Kenny Kabak, *Director of Music and Youth Ministries*  
 Tom Killingsworth, *Treasurer*  
 Val Paulette, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*  
 Catherine Thapa, *Organist*  
 Will Rohrer, *Sexton*  
 Shannon Wilson, *Nursery*  
 Stephanie Stolle, *Nursery*  
 Mary Ellen Chiles, *Nursery*