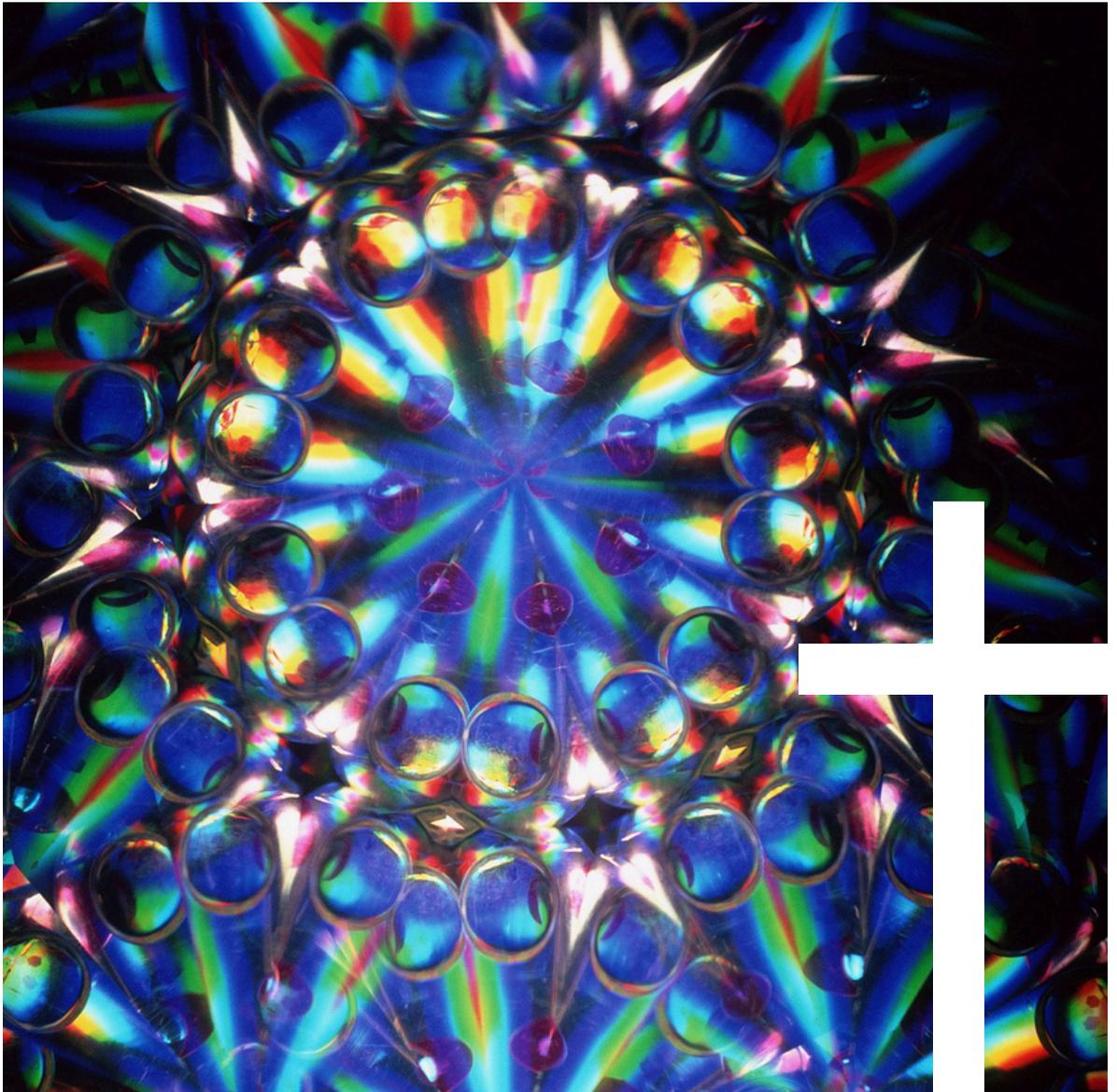


Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @10:45am



# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:45am

March 22, 2026

---

## GATHERING

*The people of God come together in the Lord's name.*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude--O Saving Sacrifice--Daniel Auber**

**Introit--Lead Me, Lord**

Chancel Choir

### **Call to Worship--**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord

**that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in this paths.**

**Opening Hymn\*\*103--Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

### **Invocation--**

**Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.*

**Scripture Reading--1 Peter 3:18-20**

**Gloria Patri--Glory Be to the Father (Hymnal p. 70)**

**Anthem--Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs--Karl Heinrich Graun**

Chancel Choir

**God's Word for Young Disciples--** (congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward)

**Scripture Reading\*\***--Matthew 12:38-41

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**--*“The Harrowing of Hell”*

Pastor Jon Priebe

## **RESPONSE**

*The People respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response\*\*57**--*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**Prayer of Confession/Words of Assurance**--

**People:** Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love which casts out fear and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory**--*For the Lord Hath Comforted His People*--T. Ridley Prentice

**Doxology\*\***

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Prayers of the People/The 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.

*(continued)*

## SENDING FORTH

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.*

**Closing Hymn\*\*715--Rejoice, the Lord Is King**

**Benediction** (Hymn 666)--*Shalom to You*

***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--Were You There?--Diane Bish**

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given  
in loving memory of Gerald Lewis, by Carol Lewis**

**Music--One License A-731491**

**\*\*indicates please stand as you are able**

### Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister  
Howard Pippin, Associate Minister  
Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus  
Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director of Music & Worship  
Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist  
Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries  
Jennifer Brooks, Director of Weekday Christian Preschool  
Office Staff: Christy Meyers-Receptionist, Nancy Yeager-Finance, Kim Kerr-Membership, Sarah Neri-Publishing

### Contact Information

245 Portage Trail  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm  
infofumccf@gmail.com  
www.firstchurchcf.com



## HYMN LYRICS

### OPENING HYMN

#### #103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious,  
thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting,  
thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest,  
to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish,  
but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory;  
thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render:  
O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor  
of light hideth thee.

### GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### #57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your savior come,  
and leap, ye lame, for joy.
7. In Christ, your head,  
you then shall know,  
shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below,  
and own that love is heaven.

## CLOSING HYMN

### #715 Rejoice the Lord Is King

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice; rejoice;  
again I say, rejoice.
2. Jesus the Savior reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.
3. His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of earth and hell  
are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.
4. Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Jesus the Judge shall come,  
and take his servants up  
to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear  
th'archangel's voice; the trump of God  
shall sound, rejoice!

## BENEDICTION

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.

## CHURCH NOTES 3-22-26

**First Church Feeds:** FCF is requesting donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and hand sanitizer for the month of March. Donations can be brought in to the boxes by the church Library. Thank you for supporting First Church Feeds!

**Easter Baskets:** Easter Sunday all children are encouraged to join us in Asbury Hall for Easter basket fun between worship services (approx. 10:15-10:45am).

**Work Camp '26:** Mark your calendars for Work Camp June 7-13 at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. Teens and adults who are willing to do service through hard work are encouraged to sign-up. Any questions can be directed to Jack Steele 330-697-8344.

**Save the Date:** We are excited to share that we are planning another Daughters In Christ Tea scheduled for May 9, 2026, from 2-4pm. Save the date!

**Golfers Wanted:** The church golf league is looking for new players and subs. The league plays Wednesdays at 4:30 at Fox Den Golf Course in Stow. If you have interest or questions, please contact Jim Boss 330-697-7446.

**VBS & Chess Camp:** VBS Planning is in full swing! Registration for the June 22-26 session opens April 6. We are starting to sign people up as volunteers—both teens and adults. Contact Donna Curfman if you have any questions or are eager to secure your spot. Chess Camp will be held July 6–10. Registration opens April 20. The camp is for both new and experienced players aged K and up.

## Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday Worship	First UMC	8:30am & 10:45am
Maundy Thursday	St. Luke's (6 <sup>th</sup> St.)	Supper 6:30pm, Worship @7:00pm
Good Friday	First Christian	7:00pm
Easter Vigil	Church Square (outdoors)	6:00am, light breakfast in Asbury
Easter Worship	First UMC	9:00am & 11:00am

## FODDER

### The Harrowing of Hell

*1 Peter 3:18* – By the cross, Christ entered into death

*Christ trampled down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowed life*

### Death Could Not Hold Him

Jesus has gone to the depths of every place we fear most

Death could not hold him and no longer has the final word over life

Questions for Reflection: What “places of darkness” in your life need to hear the message that Christ has already gone there and defeated them?

Questions for Discussion: What does it mean to you that Christ even went into the place of death? How does this change your understanding of God’s presence in times of grief or loss?

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:18a – *“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”*

Readings for this Week: Matthew 21:1-11, Colossians 2:9-15, Psalm 91:14-16

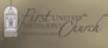
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

# EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

Ecumenical Sunrise Service  
6:00AM  
@Outdoor Church Square  
*Light breakfast following @FUMC*

Worship Services  
9:00AM & 11:00AM  
@First United Methodist  
245 Portage Trail 44221

All children are invited to build a basket Easter Sunday between services in Asbury hall (10:15-10:45).



# PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

## *In our community:*

We continue to pray for our troops and leadership.

## *In our Greater world:*

We pray for peace.

## *Our sympathy & Prayers:*

We lift up the families of service members who have recently lost their lives.

## *From our Congregation:*

Bob Ahonen  
Joanne Ames  
Debbie Amundsen  
Rick Amundsen  
Dorothy Bates  
Loretta Brinton  
Suzanne Callahan  
Melanie Chaney  
Ron Dickerhoof Jr.  
Gabe & Rima Elissa  
Mary Griest  
John Gullion  
Kim Haftl

Kathleen Hess  
Tom Jackson  
Vince Meeker  
Raquel Mehalik  
Robbie Robinson  
Kathi Sawyer  
Fritz Sterling  
Michael Taucher  
Kathy Walker  
Jim Ward Jr.  
Jim Yates  
Peg Yeager  
Tim Zuchin