

February 22, 2023 | Ash Wednesday | 7:00pm

# ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**

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*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,  
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

*We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

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## WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

*At the bell's ringing, let us concentrate on Jesus and his promise of salvation.*

Prelude

"Adonai"

Service of Confession

Hymn of Invitation

#326, v. 1,2 & 4, "Softly and Tenderly"

Call of Confession (from Psalm 51:1-3)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions.

**People: *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.***

Hymn of Prayer

#185, v. 1 & 2, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy and impatience in our lives.

**People: *Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our anger and our frustration, our envy of others.***

Leader: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work.

**People: *Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.***

**All: *We confess to you, O God. We confess to you, O God.***

Hymn of Prayer

#185, v. 3 & 4, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Words of Cleansing (from Psalm 51:7-10)

Leader: Cleanse us with hyssop, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow.

**People: *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.***

Leader: Hide your face from our sins and blot out all our iniquity.

**People: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

Reading of Assurance

2 Corinthians 5:18-6:10

†Hymn of Faith

#405, "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing Our Offerings

Offertory

"Draw Me Close"

Sermon

"Reconciliation Made Possible"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

†Closing Hymn

#350, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

†Benediction

†Postlude

# THE SEASON OF LENT

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Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precedes Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, a time determined by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. Easter is on April 4th.

“Lent” is from the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” as in the lengthening days of spring. This season of 40 days has been celebrated by Christians at least since the early 2nd century. In the Christian Scriptures the number 40 relates to the period spent by Noah in the Ark, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his public ministry.

For us, the Season of Lent is when the passion and death of our Savior come into focus. It’s observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as a time for deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It’s an invitation to 40 days of renewal, 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins, our repentance, and our morality. Receiving the sacrament tonight reminds us that God’s love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains “in communion” with us, and that through Christ’s redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.

## WE PRACTICE OPEN COMMUNION

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All adults and older youth who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to commune

- ◆ Grape juice is served in the trays of the cup
- ◆ Communicants will be served in the pews, partaking at one time

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist	Lynne Christman	Sound Tech	James Grime
Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman	Easy Worship	Ryan Volkman
Head Usher	Karen Walker	Live Stream	Ryan Christman





**ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)

Pastor of Music & Worship - Rev. Ryan Volkman (Cell: 325-213-0671)  
Administrative Assistant - Jocelyn Walker ([office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))