

February 14, 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!** In our worship of God on this evening, we are made aware of our sinfulness and our mortality. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we were created by God out of dust, and to dust we shall return. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey, a season in which we are drawn ever closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **Ash Wednesday & Sacrament of Holy Communion Order of Worship**

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome

Scripture and Prayer

Psalm 51:1-7 (p. 562)

Prelude

“What He’s Done”

†Call to Worship (L-Leader, **P-People**)

L: May your love and mercy be upon us in this season, O Lord.

**P: Cleanse and refresh us from every transgression.**

L: Have mercy upon us, O God, bless us with your truth and wisdom.

**P: Let your Spirit lead us in righteousness and faithfulness. Amen.**

†Hymn of Praise

#25, “Immortal, Invisible”

Children’s Message

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

Our Lord’s Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-21 (p. 960)

Hymn

#202, “Amazing Grace”

Worship of God with Our Offerings

Offertory Sentence and Prayer

Offertory

Sermon

“Our Own Self-Awareness”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Unison Prayer of Approach: **Gracious and loving God, we come before you with open hearts, willing to look at the truth about ourselves, hoping to find healing and new life. We are preparing to make our Lenten journey to travel with Jesus along the path which led him to the cross. Give us courage, strength and confidence in your constant love. Amen.**

Communion Invitation

Words of Institution

Unison Prayer of Blessing: **Come Holy Spirit, bless these elements, these symbols of our Lord’s love. Bless us as we partake of this sacrament, so our lives of faith will be refreshed and our spirits joined with the risen Christ, who is in our midst. Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Blessing  
†Closing Hymn  
†Benediction  
†Postlude

#185, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

**Loose Offerings** will support the ministries of The Aroles and Back Bay Mission.  
**We practice open communion**, so we invite to the Lord's Table all older youth and adults who believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior. Grape juice is served in the trays of the cup.

## 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. This year Easter is on March 31st.

"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 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 mortality. 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.

Lenten worship services will be held at 7pm each Wednesday in the sanctuary. Services will feature hymn sings, prayer and a teaching lesson based on the words Jesus spoke from the cross.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist: Buffy Riley  
Song Leader: Roger Zimmerman  
Head Usher: Dave Walker  
Ushers: Bill & Kathy Bostelman,  
Karen Walker, Molly Rutledge

Sound Tech: James Grime  
Live Stream: Ryan Christman  
Worship Leader: Linda Heer



**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))