

March 3, 2024, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)
Dr. Marvin Guier, Guest Preacher

Prelude

Sunshine Gospel Singers: *Amazing Grace/ My Chains are Gone*

Welcome / Communion Speaker

†Congregational Hymns

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place

The Gift of Love

Love, Mercy and Grace

Joys / Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir: *Come as You Are*

Doxology 95

**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.**

Call to Prayer *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Prayers of the People / Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response *Lift High the Cross*

†Prayer of Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed, we may hear your call to holy living. Amen.**

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (Common English Bible Version)

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. It is written in scripture: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent. Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called – both Jews and Greeks – Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon *God's Foolishness*

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and God will be my Savior.**

(The First Song of Isaiah)

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Communion Hymn *Because He Lives*

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn *Because He Lives*

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response- Onscreen)

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction (The Light of Christ Taken into the World)

Benediction Response *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Prelude