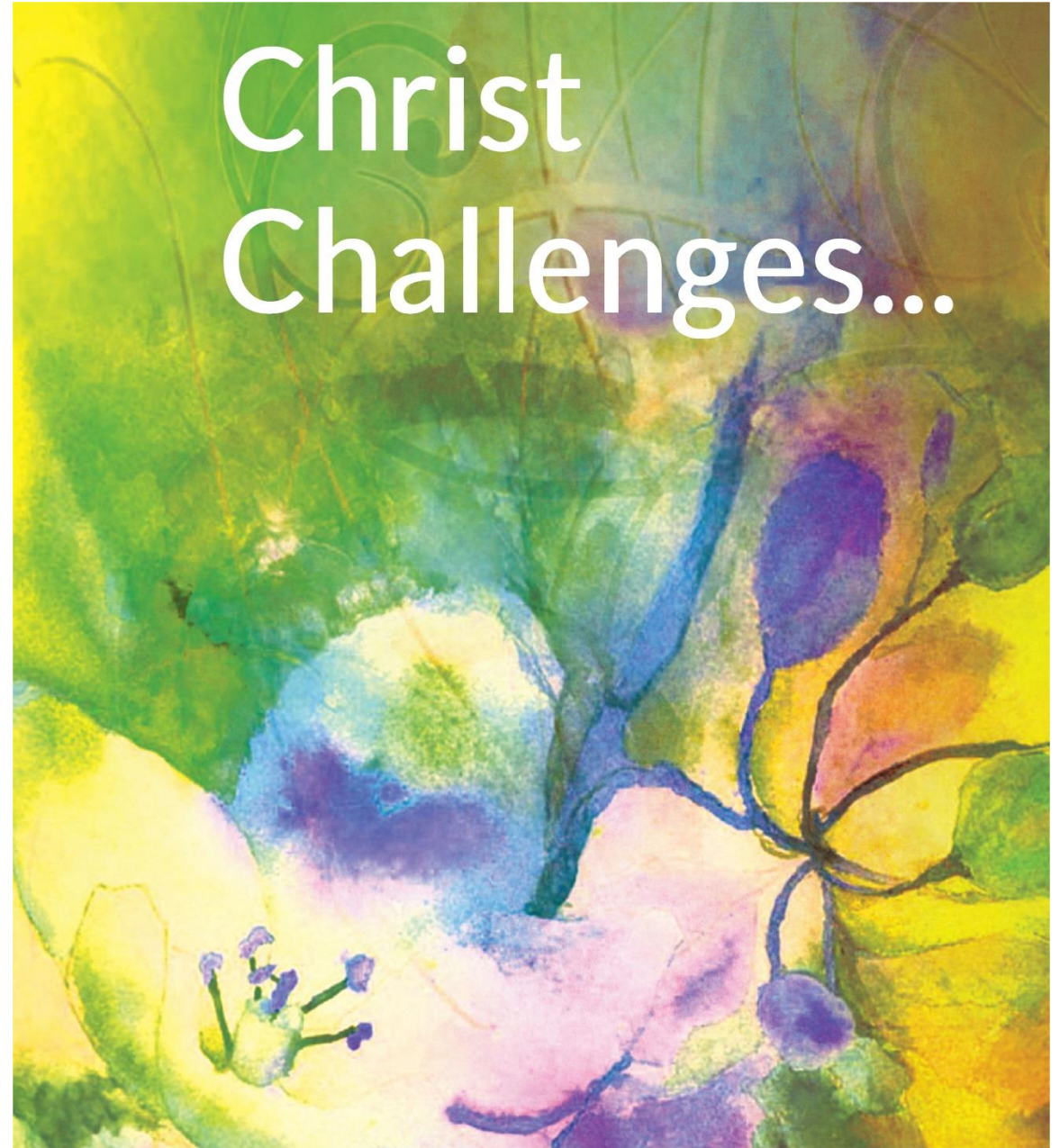




WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Christ Challenges...



Celebration *of* Worship

March 16, 2025

Lent 2:

Christ Challenges Our Condemnation

Centering chimes

Prelude

*Gathering Hymn #158 "I Know God Loves Me"

*Call to worship (based on Luke 13:6-9)

Leader: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely,

Congregation: but God goes with us through the wild wilderness.

Leader: Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations.

Congregation: Lent is a time to ponder God's providence and persistence.

Leader: Together, we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us;

Congregation: the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.

Leader: In this season of penitence and pondering, let us gather before God.

Congregation: We come, as a family, to wait for the Lord with strength and courage.

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

Welcome & prayer

*Hymn #159 "Here on Christ the Rock I Will Stand"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

Scripture Luke 13:1-9; 31-35

Confession

ALL: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We are quick to pass judgment and to assume your authority to condemn others.

ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us shake free from our quickness to condemn so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Assurance

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Sermon

*Response Hymn #156 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Prayer & Offertory (Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows)

Congregational sharing and prayer (use a mic or *text/email prayers to Pastor Deb*)

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church

*Sending Hymn #568 "Christ Has No Body Here but Ours"

*Benediction

**Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

Call to Worship: Written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on Liturgy & Hymns by Stephen M. Fearing. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/>. Used by permission.

Visuals: The artwork hanging at the front of the sanctuary was created by Donna Evans. The wooden cross on the communion table was made by Perry Biddle.

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God's love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.
Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.