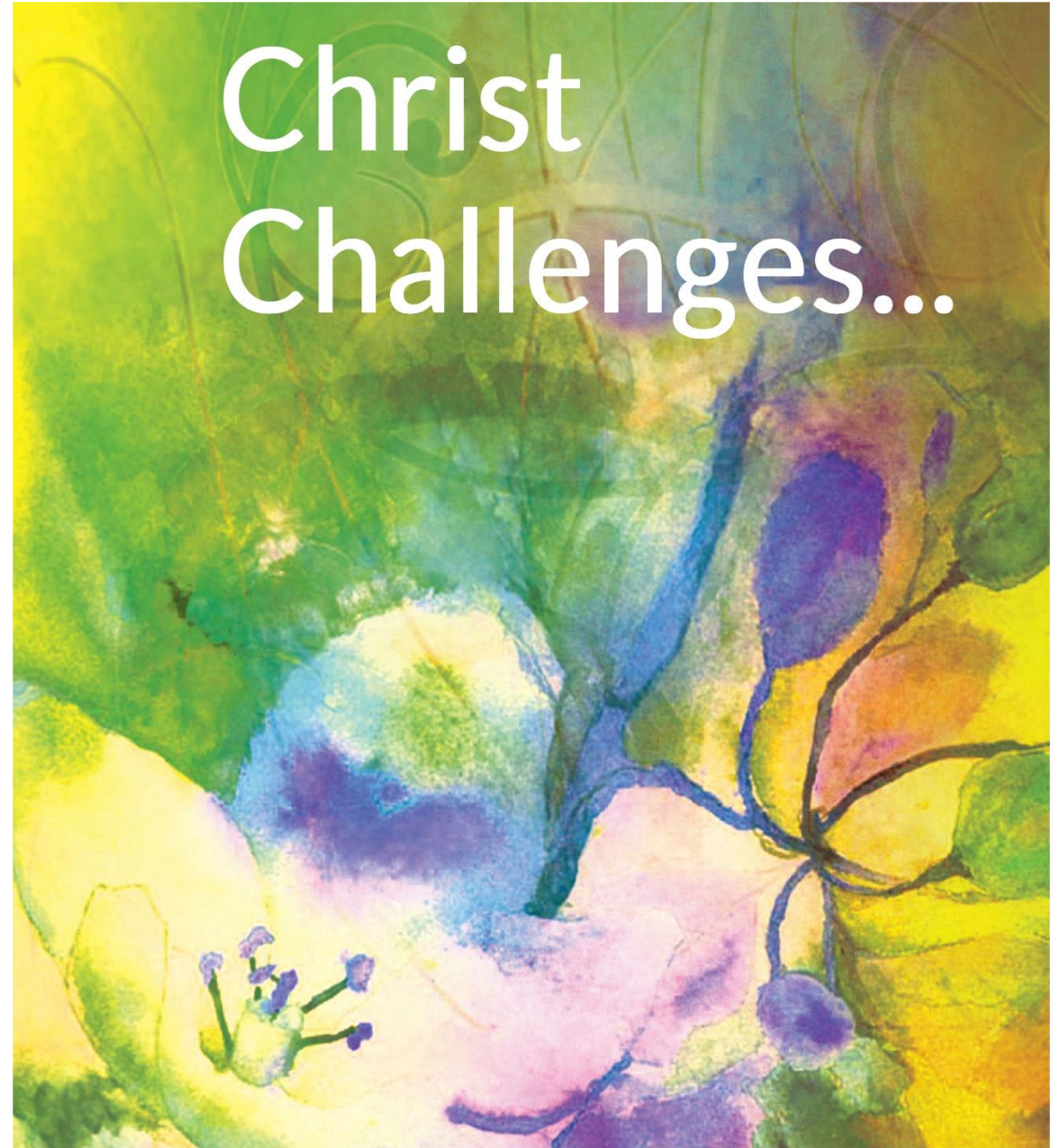




WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Christ Challenges...



Celebration *of* Worship

March 23, 2025

*Lent 3:
Christ Challenges Our Priorities*

Centering chimes

Prelude

*Gathering Hymn #166 “Your Love Is Washing Over Me”

*Call to worship

One: As we worship, Christ challenges our priorities.

Many: We gather and pause from the important busyness of our lives.

One: Jesus reveals the depth of God’s purposes.

Many: Help us come to our senses by your Spirit.

ALL: For your reign, O God, help us celebrate being found as we worship you.

Welcome & prayer

*Hymn #299 “God Lights a Lamp”

Children’s story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Scripture Luke 15:1-32

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 prioritize the wrong things and the wrong people.

ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us bring our priorities in line with yours 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 #544 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

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

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

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.*

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.