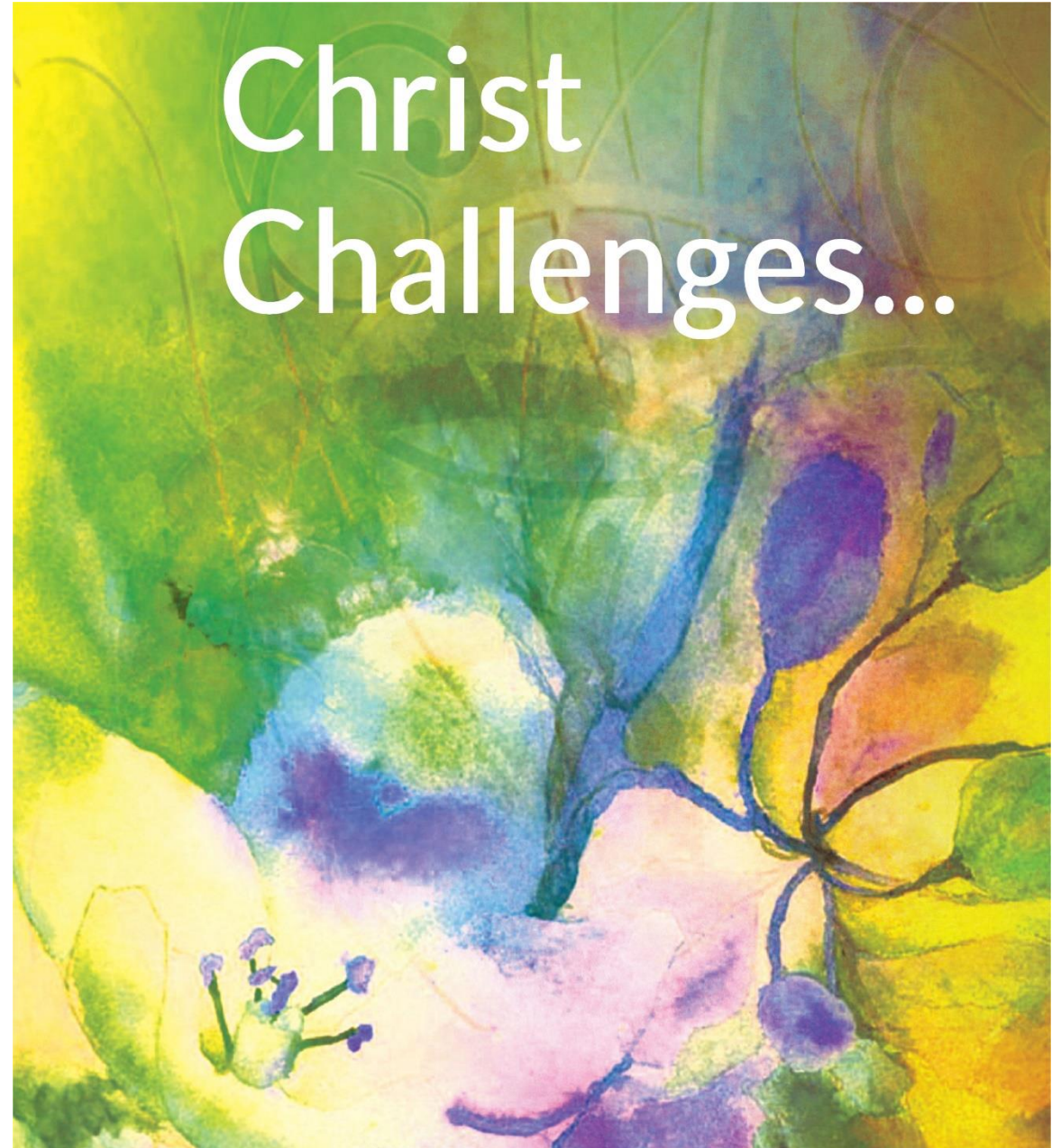




WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Christ Challenges...



Celebration *of* Worship

March 30, 2025

Lent 4:

Christ Challenges Our Selfishness

Centering chimes

Prelude

*Call to worship *(from Hymnal: A Worship Book)*

Leader: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

People: We come seeking the cloud of your presence as we travel the way.

We come seeking your pillar of fire to light our darkness.

ALL: Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your love.

Make your presence known through Jesus the Christ. AMEN.

*Gathering Hymn #35 "Come to the Water"

Welcome & prayer

*Hymn #712 "Beauty for Brokenness"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Scripture Luke 16:19-33

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 cling to what we have and trust in material things, ignoring the needs of those around us.

ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us loosen our grip on what we have and challenge the selfishness of our society with open hands 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 #758 "Who Will Speak a Word of Warning"

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.*

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.