

ORDER OF WORSHIP

HYMNS FOR GATHERING

#469 *I Am the Light of the World*

#654 *Here I Am Lord*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Nancy Doty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES/RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Doris Kemner

Leader: We are bound to give thanks to God for all our brothers and sisters in the faith.

People: The love of God draws us together and the gracious deeds of God evoke our praise.

Leader: God chooses us all for salvation, to confirm in us the truth of the Gospel.

People: In the glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we are tied to one another in love.

Leader: God has promised to strengthen us, and we know God is faithful in all things.

People: The spirit of the Living God is in our midst, enlivening all we say and do.

*OPENING HYMN #285 *How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely*

*OPENING PRAYER

God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power.

Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk— places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wonderful Cross*

Chancel Choir

First Lesson Joshua 1:1-9

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Luke 18:1-8

Leader: God is still speaking

People: Spread the Good News!

SERMON "Whatever...." Pastor Nancy

RESPONSIVE READING Philippians 4:8

Pastor: Whatever is true,

People: I will do whatever it takes to live according to God's Word and Way; to pray, to be thankful, to show God's love in my thoughts, words and deeds.

Pastor: Whatever is honorable,

People: I will do whatever it takes to be respectable, to live honestly and with integrity.

Pastor: Whatever is right,

People: I will do whatever it takes to stand up for justice, show compassion, be merciful and forgiving, accepting and supportive.

Pastor: Whatever is pure,

People: I will do whatever it takes to cleanse my mind and soul from impure thoughts, to replace hatred with kindness, to be a source of light and hope in times of struggle and darkness.

Pastor: Whatever is lovely,

People: I will do whatever it takes to bring beauty, love, and joy to those I know and to strangers I meet along the way.

Pastor: Whatever is commendable,

**People: I will do whatever it takes to praise, uplift, appreciate, and honor others without prejudice or bias.
All: If there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**

HYMN #609

Take My Life

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

OFFERTORY

Guild Me Ever, Great Redeemer

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

It is our desire, Lord, that these offerings will be pleasing to you – not because we are somehow buying your favor, but because you have already shown us your favor and we are responding in gratitude and in love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #677 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Sarabande

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Clinton United Church of Christ

CUCC Mission Statement:

*Joyfully serving God, our church family, and neighbors,
near and far, with dignity, compassion, and respect.*



MARCH 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

REV. DR. NANCY DOTY

CAROLYN DICKS, ORGANIST