OUR WELCOMING COVENANT

Kirkwood United Church of Christ is called by God to be an open, diverse and caring community of Jesus’ disciples. In following Christ’s commandment to love one another, we welcome all who wish to share in fellowship, membership, leadership, worship, ministry, sacraments, rites, responsibilities and blessings of our faith community. As we affirm every person is a child of God, no one is excluded, regardless of race, ethnic or socio-economic background, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith background. We are an Open and Affirming and an Immigrant Welcoming congregation. All are welcome here!
GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Hearing assistance is available, please see an usher
Please join in responses printed in blue lettering
*All who are able, please stand

Those seated on the aisle, please fill out the welcome sheet on the clipboard in the pew rack, and pass it to the next person. Request: the last person to sign, please put the sheet in plate. Thank you.

Welcome

Prelude

The Call

John 1:1-5 (The Voice)

Before time itself was measured, the Voice was speaking.
   The Voice was and is God.
This celestial Word remained ever present with the Creator;
   his speech shaped the entire cosmos.
Immersed in the practice of creating,
   all things that exist were birthed in him.
   His breath filled all things
   with a living, breathing light—
A light that thrives in the depths of darkness,
   blazes through murky bottoms.
   It cannot and will not be quenched.

*Gathering Song

“Morning Has Broken” Page 4

*Gathering Prayer

“Where the Light Begins”

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes,
to learn to see what has forever shimmered in front of us -

the luminous line
of the map in the dark,

the vigil flame
in the house of the heart,

the love so searing
we cannot keep from singing,
from crying out
in testimony and praise.

Perhaps this day will be the mountain
over which the dawn breaks.
Perhaps we will turn our face toward it, toward what has been always.

Perhaps our eyes will finally open in ancient recognition, willingly dazzled, illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day the light begins in us.
Amen.

Children’s Time

Scripture Reading

John 1:6-14

A man named John, who was sent by God, was the first to clearly articulate the source of this Light. This baptizer put in plain words the elusive mystery of the Divine Light so all might believe through him. Some wondered whether he might be the Light, but John was not the Light. He merely pointed to the Light. The true Light, who shines upon the heart of everyone, was coming into the cosmos.

He entered our world, a world he made; yet the world did not recognize him. Even though he came to his own people, they refused to listen and receive him. But for all who did receive and trust in him, he gave them the right to be reborn as children of God; he bestowed this birthright not by human power or initiative but by God’s will.

The Voice took on flesh and became human and chose to live alongside us. We have seen him, enveloped in undeniable splendor—the one true son of the Creator—evidenced in the perfect balance of grace and truth.

Message

“In the beginning...again”

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer

translated from Aramaic by an unknown writer

Our cosmic Father from whom the breath of life comes
Who fills all realms of light and sound and resonance.
Your heavenly domain approaches.
May your light be experienced in utmost holiness.
Let your will come true in the universe (all that vibrates)
As on earth (all that is material and dense).
Give us wisdom (understanding assistance) for our daily need.
Detach the fetters of fault that bind us
As we let go the guilt of others.
Let us not be lost in superficial things (common material temptations)
But let us be freed from what keeps us from our true purpose.
From you comes all the working will – the lively strength to act.
This song beautifies and renews itself from age to age
Sealed in trust faith and truth. Amen.
Invitation to the Offering
“How a society treats people is an essentially moral decision. It is also a theological matter that reflects our obedience, or lack thereof, to the word of God. The foundation of all human rights, equality, and dignity is all of us being created in the image of God - *imago Dei*. Seeing all people, no matter their race or ethnicity, gender, who they are, how they worship, or who they love as full image-bearers of God undermines any human attempt to build barriers or divisions between groups.”
- Jim Wallis, *Christ in Crisis*

Offertory “How Beautiful” Pat Messick

Doxology “Great Is Your Faithfulness” v. 3 #423
Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring, your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided, Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

*Prayer of Dedication*

God of all that was, all that is, and all that ever will be:
let your Light nourish and grow these,
our offerings to you,
until wholeness pushes up
through the broken surface of our lives,
and green shoots emerge
with the promise of life and hope and truth.
Amen, and Amen.

*Blessing and Commissioning*

*Sending Forth Song* “Let It Shine”

Postlude

**Sources:**
*Invitation to Offering* is from Christ in Crisis, by Jim Wallis, p. 46.
*Prayer of Dedication* are adapted from Christine Sine, Godspace, www.godspacelight.com.
Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the dew-fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morn-ing! Praise for them, spring-ing fresh from the Word!

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav-en, like the first morning born of the gar- den, sprung in com-plete-ness where God's feet pass.

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

3. Mine is the sun-light! Mine is the morn-ing born of the morn-ing, God's re-cre-a-tion of the new day!
2

**Morningstar**

1. You are the Morning-star, You are the Fountain,
   life breathing Spirit, hope from the mountain.
   We sing for joy of You, while our souls cling to You.

2. In dry and weary lands, You give us water,
   greeting each wanderer as son or daughter.
   You are the Morning-star.

3. Liberate yesterday, free for tomorrow,
   Guide all who search for You, in stress or sorrow.
   We sing for joy of You, while our souls cling to You.

4. In faith we seek Your face, power and brilliance,
   Strong and uplifting hands, grace-filled resilience.
   You are the Morning-star.
Let It Shine

Let it shine, let it shine, the light of the world that

Last time, Fine shows the way; let it shine, let it shine, and show us peace to-day.

1. The church bears witness to God's grace, its
2. When love replaces human greed, a
3. Now let us give ourselves to God with -

mission crystal clear: to show the world God's last ing peace will come as hands reach out to -in this war-torn world, and work till justice

human face, a world that God holds dear.
human need from hearts no longer numb.
wants a-broad with flags of peace unfurled.
**KUCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*Names in italics with an asterisk are community groups which use our facilities.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY, MARCH 8</th>
<th>THURSDAY, MARCH 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Al-Anon*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship &amp; Finance</td>
<td>LOGOS Final Dinner</td>
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<td>Coffee Hour</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Choir practice</td>
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<td>Adult Ed</td>
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<td>Mon, March 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al-Anon*</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Men's Prayer Lunch</td>
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<td>SLAA*</td>
<td>7:25 pm</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<td>TUESDAY, MARCH 10</td>
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<td>Worship &amp; Music</td>
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<td>Yoga*</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Church Council</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>Adult Faith Formation</td>
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<td>Women's Fellowship</td>
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<td>Meditation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenten Soup &amp; Salad Supper</td>
<td>Dialogue Group</td>
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<td>Al-Anon*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenten Activity – Soul Collage</td>
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</tbody>
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*SUNDAY, MARCH 15* | 9:30 am  
| Group leaves to cook breakfast | 10:30 am  
| Worship | Coffee Hour  
| 11:00 am | Adult Ed  
| 3:00 pm | Dialogue Group  

welcoming. progressive. relevant  
Kirkwood United Church of Christ
Easter Lily Order Form

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, April 12!
The 6” lilies may be taken home after the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday. Complete this order form and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate with payment folded inside.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 29

Name: ________________________ Telephone Number: ________

_____Lilies at $12.00 each = Total Enclosed $ ________

(Make checks payable to KUCC. On Memo line, write “Easter Flowers”)

In memory of _____________________________ By _____________________________

In honor of _____________________________ By _____________________________

Your designations will be included in Easter Bulletin/Screen. (Include additional designations on the back of this form as needed.)