

# CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

*United Methodist*

*A Christian Community Committed to Growing Deeper in Faith  
and Pursuing God's Hope for Every Life*



**WILDERNESS  
JOURNEY**

February 22, 2026

11:00 a.m., Great Hall

Rev. Andy Call, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Cindy Patterson, Administrative Pastor

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREAT HALL

11:00 a.m.

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## OPENING TO GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The Rev. Andy Call

\* CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>1</sup>

Debbie Jones

One: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

**Many: The word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

One: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

**Many: Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

One: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

**Many: We worship the Lord our God alone.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE #142

*If Thou but Suffer  
God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Call

PRAYER OF CONFESSION <sup>2</sup>

**Lord God,**

**you know the ways of good and evil.**

**You know the things that tempt us  
and the things that give us life.**

**You know our vulnerability,  
and you know our sin.**

**We confess that we have disobeyed your Word,  
denying your providence and care  
and relying on our own wisdom.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray:  
cover us with your grace,  
feed us with the bread of life,  
and re-create us in your image;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept.)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. Call

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Many: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

\* THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Ms. Jones

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

THE MESSAGE

*Jesus in the Wilderness*

Rev. Call

## OFFERING OUR LIVES IN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION

*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

EBENEZER

See back inside cover

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

The Rev. Cindy Patterson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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, the power, and the glory, forever.**

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Call

OFFERTORY

*Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said*

arr. Rebecca Groom

\* DOXOLOGY #95 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #269

*Lord, Who Throughout  
These Forty Days*

LAND OF REST

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Call

\* POSTLUDE

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\* The people may stand.

Don Verkuijlen, Director of Traditional Music & Organist; Alisdair Welty, organ scholar

*The flowers on the altar are dedicated in memory of Sarah Elizabeth Billington, a gift of the Billington family.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Welcome—We're glad you're here!**

At Church of the Saviour, we welcome people of all ages and abilities to grow in faith together. We celebrate children's voices, movement, and energy in worship! Coloring materials are available outside the Sanctuary, and the church library offers a quiet space, if needed. Nursery care is available in Room 100 from 9:30AM–12:00PM.



Children in PreK-4 through 5th Grade are invited to join in our Godly Play and Children's Music programs, between 9:50AM and 12:00PM. Middle and High School groups meet at 11:00AM. Visit the desk outside the Sanctuary for room locations and details. Scan the accompanying QR code for complete information about our Children's and Youth Ministries.

### **Godly Play for Grown-ups – RSVP Today**

Godly Play isn't just for children. Godly Play for Grown-ups offers a calm, supportive environment for nurturing your own spiritual development and experiencing the kind of spacious, reflective time we offer to children each week.



In each session, we'll experience a full Godly Play gathering together: hearing a sacred story, opening ourselves to wondering, and responding in open-ended ways through art materials, journaling, or quiet reflection. It's a chance to step out of the regular rhythm of the week and into a more peaceful, attentive way of being—with God and with one another.

Join us Thursday evening, February 26, from 6:30–8:00pm in the Parlor, with additional sessions on March 26 and April 23. Come for one evening or plan to attend all three. Childcare is available upon request. Please scan the QR code to register for the first session by February 22. All are welcome!

## Join Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir has recently updated their rehearsal schedule. To better support busy schedules, rehearsals have moved to Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The Chancel Choir is a warm, welcoming group of volunteers who enjoy making beautiful music together. While we strive for excellence, we also genuinely enjoy the process. No previous experience or music-reading ability is required—we will support and teach you along the way. Whether you have sung in a choir before or you are considering it for the first time, you are wholeheartedly invited to join us. For more information, please contact Don Verkuijlen at [dverkuijlen@cotsumc.org](mailto:dverkuijlen@cotsumc.org) or reach out through the church office.

## Lent Devotional

As we begin our Lenten journeys, each of us has the opportunity to commit to growing deeper in faith. To help us, church member Lorrie Goss has compiled daily readings for us to read, meditate, and pray on. Each week's readings will be distributed via The Chimes newsletter and the Rooted devotional. Scan the QR code to view the latest edition.



## Lent Group Study

As Easter approaches, the season of Lent is an opportunity to foster spiritual renewal and deeper relationships with God and each other. *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross* group study, with thought-provoking insights delivered in an accessible manner, will do just that. Gatherings will include a 10-minute video and conversation. For those who would like the participant's book (not required for the study), limited copies will be available for \$20 in the church office or can be purchased online. The 6-week study will be held at two separate times on Tuesdays, February 24-March 31: from 12:30 - 1:30 pm, led by Lorrie Goss, or from 7:00 - 8:00 pm, led by Rev. Nate Partee. Scan the QR code for all the details and to sign up.



## New Member Orientation

Have you considered taking the next step in connecting your faith and the church by becoming a member of Church of the Saviour? Membership is like becoming a stakeholder - making the shift from participating to shaping who we are and what we do together. Embark is a 90-minute session orienting you to some of the details about life at COTS - who we are, what we believe and why, where we focus our energy, and how we grow in God's grace together. The next session will be Sunday, March 15 at 12:30 p.m. and will include lunch and childcare upon request. Click here to register.



## **Floral Dedications**

The Church of the Saviour Foundation generously supports our popular Sunday altar flower dedication ministry. Beautiful altar arrangements for the 11 o'clock service are available for dedication in honor or in memory of someone special. Arrangements may be purchased for \$50 each, with the Foundation subsidizing the balance. One or both arrangements may be purchased on any given Sunday. To schedule a Sunday, contact Sarah in the church office at [sdick@cotsumc.org](mailto:sdick@cotsumc.org) or 216-321-8880.

## **Giving Campaign Results**

As the “Growing in Grace” generosity and stewardship campaign draws to a close, we want to express our gratitude to the 141 households who made a pledge to contribute to God’s work through Church of the Saviour. If you missed the campaign, pledges can still be made at any time online or in the church office. Thank you!



## **THIS WEEK AT COTS**

**Tuesday, February 24**

Edna Rhodes Circle, 12:30PM

**Wednesday, February 25**

Martha Circle, 7:00PM

**Saturday, February 28**

COTS Youth Basketball Game Day Week 7, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

**Sunday, March 1**

LGBTQIA+ & Active Allies Group via ZOOM, 12:30PM

Visit [cotsumc.org/events](http://cotsumc.org/events) for additional programming information  
& regularly scheduled events.





1. Je - sus, tempt - ed in the des - ert, lone - ly, hun - gry,  
 2. Je - sus, tempt - ed at the tem - ple, high a - bove its  
 3. Je - sus, tempt - ed on the moun - tain by the lure of  
 4. When we face temp - ta - tion's pow - er, lone - ly strug - gling,



filled with dread: "Use your power," the tempt - er tells him;  
 an - cient wall: "Throw your - self from loft - y tur - ret;  
 vast do - main: "Fall be - fore me! Be my ser - vant!  
 filled with dread, Christ, who knew the tempt - er's ho - ur,



"Turn these bar - en rocks to bread!" "Not a - lone by  
 an - gels wait to break your fall!" Je - sus shuns such  
 Glo - ry, fame, you're sure to gain!" Je - sus sees the  
 come and be our liv - ing bread. By your grace, pro -



bread," he an - swers, "Can the hu - man heart be filled.  
 emp - ty mar - vels, feats that fick - le crowds re - quest:  
 daz - zling vi - sion, turns his eyes an - oth - er way:  
 tect, pre - serve us lest we fall your trust be - tray.



On - ly by the Word that calls us  
 "God, whose grace pro - tects, pre - serves us,  
 "God a - lone de - serves our hom - age!  
 Yours, a - bove all oth - er voic - es,



is our deep - est hun - ger stilled!"  
 we must nev - er vain - ly test."  
 God a - lone will I o - bey!"  
 be the Word we hear, o - bey.

**Please register your attendance at today's worship service.**

**Thank you!**

