

# Traditional Worship - March 30, 2025 - 8:30 & 11:00 am

## Entering into the Spirit of Worship

Greeting 8:30 - Tom Beattie 11:00 - Monica Coventry

Prelude *Sanctus* arr. Penfield

\*Call to Worship 8:30 - Angela Fritz  
11:00 - Richard Acker

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the Vine; you are the branches."

**People: We come to abide in Christ, that we may bear much fruit.**

Leader: Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

**People: But in Him, our lives flourish and bring glory to God.**

Leader: Let us remain in His love, nourished by His Word.

**People: And may our worship today strengthen our connection to the True Vine!**

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord who gives us life!**

\*Hymn *Take Up Thy Cross* #220

## The Uniting of our Hearts in Prayer

Prayer Pastor Robby Strock

### 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.**

## Proclaiming the Word of God

Anthem 8:30 *Medley of the Cross* arr. Page  
Sanctuary Choir

11:00 *Christ is Our Brother* Choplin  
Chancel Choir

**Statement of Faith**

We believe in God, the Gardener, who tends the vineyard with wisdom and love, pruning, shaping, and nurturing His people so that we may bear the fruit of His kingdom. We believe in Jesus Christ, the True Vine, our source of life and strength. Apart from Him, we can do nothing, but in Him, we abide and flourish, growing in faith, love, and obedience. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who flows through us like living water, cultivating the fruit of righteousness and uniting us as branches of one Vine. We believe that we are called to remain in Christ, to dwell in His Word, to reflect His love, and to bear fruit that brings glory to the Father. To Him be all honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

**Offering our Gifts to God**

*The Journey*  
Men's Chorus

arr. Martin

**\*Response in Song** (11:00 only)

#682

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (11:00 only)**\*Hymn** (11:00 only)*Fairest Lord* (v. 1)

#113

**Children's Sermon****Scripture**

John 15:1-8

pg. 874

**Message****I Am the True Vine**

I Am

Pastor Jared Priset

**Sending Forth****\*Closing Hymn***We Come, O Christ, To Thee* (v. 1, 3 & 4)

#109

**\*Benediction****Postlude***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

arr. Mason

\*Those who are able, please stand

Choir Director - Abe Gibson; Interim Organist - Philip Schleich; Interim Accompanist - Lorraine George

**Altar Flowers:** are given by Trudy Reusser  
in memory of Clint Reusser

**Acolytes:** Sofia McConnell & Ava Mayle

# Sermon Outline

**Focus:** Abiding in Jesus is the key to a life of spiritual growth, strength, and fruitfulness. Just as branches cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, we cannot thrive apart from Christ. When we remain in Him, He nourishes us, transforms us, and produces in us the lasting fruit of His Spirit that impacts the world around us.

## I. I Am – the True Vine

The 1% phone battery problem

Jesus is our “power source”

## II. Jesus is the only source for a vibrant spiritual life

Israel – described as God’s vineyard – set apart to display His glory

Psalm 80:8-9; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 15

As the true vine, Jesus declares:

True source of spiritual life

Fulfillment of God’s promises

The only path to true fruitfulness

*Are you abiding in Jesus?*

## III. Abiding is the key to spiritual growth

“Abide” – active dependance

Jesus doesn’t give a task list – he gives relationship

Remain, dwell, stay connected – relational term

*What rhythms/habits are helping you abide in Jesus?*

## IV. Fruitfulness is Evidence of a Life Abiding in Christ

Isaiah 5:7; Jeremiah 17:7-8

Fruitfulness – a sign of spiritual vitality

Galatians 5:22-23 – not singular – one cohesive work produced by the Spirit

Spiritual fruit grows slowly, and pruning is required

## V. The Bristlecone Pine

Strength comes from being deeply connected

# Contemporary Worship - March 30, 2025 - 9:30 & 11:00 am

Praise Songs

*Death Was Arrested*  
*Sit Enthroned*

Welcome

9:30 - Mike Moss      Oasis - Julia Fabich

Worship Song & Offering

*It Is Well*

Prayer

Tony Walsh

Children's Sermon

Scripture

John 15:1-8

Message

**I Am the True Vine**

I Am

Pastor Bryan George

Closing Song

*New Wine*

Benediction

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## Sermon Outline

**Focus: When we keep in connection with God, we draw strength and produce fruit. There are times when our lives are pruned in order to become more fruitful. In those pruning times, we have the choice to change and grow or shrivel and die.**

I) Pruning my oak leaf hydrangea

Knowing when to cut back for growth

Am I being cut down to become more fruitful or cut off because I am fruitless?

II) Jesus and His Farewell Discourse (John 14-16)

Preparing his disciples for what is to come. *Abide in Me.*

The Imagery of the Vineyard in Israel (Isaiah, Jeremiah 2, Psalm 80, Hosea 10)

Jesus is the True Vine: Connected to the source of life

III) The Nature of a Grape Vine:

The Vine needs pruning to produce good fruit.

The farther away from main stock the less fruitful it becomes

If the branches are disconnected from source they die

Picking up sticks with Adelynn

The best vineyards in the world exist in some of the most challenging soil

Yancey *"Seasons of dryness make the roots run deep, strengthening the vine for whatever the future holds"*

IV) "Abiding" is the key to spiritual growth

Jesus doesn't give a task list – he gives relationship

Abiding in the Lord during Pruning season

The point of staying connected is not to exist but to bear excellent fruit.

Blackaby: *"You can respond to the silence of God in two ways. One response is for you to go into depression, a sense of guilt, and self-condemnation. The other response is for you to have an expectation that God is about to bring you into a deeper knowledge of Himself."*

V) Resisting the "girdling" effect of life: killing a tree slowly and surely

What in your life is choking you from the source of life?

Abiding in the Fruits of the Spirit

What rhythms/habits are helping you abide in Jesus?

## All-Church Mission Trip 2025

This all-church mission trip will be **May 31st - June 6th**, serving in the areas surrounding Asheville, NC that were devastated by the flooding that resulted from Hurricane Helene last summer. Work may include helping with food bank or clothing distribution, debris removal, light construction, landscaping, and otherwise serving the community. Registration for the trip is due *TODAY March 30th*. With questions contact Tony Walsh, [tony@churchofthelakes.org](mailto:tony@churchofthelakes.org).

## *Explore*

### All Daughter's of God Luncheon

All women and girls are invited to a special luncheon on **Saturday, May 10th**, 11:30am in the Activity Center. Join us to celebrate that we are all daughters of God. For fun, ladies are encouraged to accessorize with your favorite or most creative purse. Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and laughter as we learn what God says about what is in the wonderful, wacky purses we carry while enjoying a meal from Mr. Mike's, playing Bingo, and other fun activities. Cost is \$15/person. Register on our website.

### Lil Lambs Closet Scholarship

Lil' Lambs Closet at Church of the Lakes will award three scholarships of \$750 each this year. Available to members of Church of the Lakes (or those who have attended regularly for at least 6 months), the scholarships are intended for both high school seniors and adults wishing to seek a degree. Pick up an application packet at the connection center. The application deadline is *Friday, April 11th*. For more information contact Tracy Nida, 330-715-3880.

### Women's Book Clubs

Wednesday Book Club - April 2nd, 10:00 am, room 201 - 'Prayers for Sale' by Sandra Dallas  
Saturday Book Club - April 12th, 9:00 am, Panera on Belpar - 'Only the Beautiful' by Susan Meissner

## *Serve*

### Youth Fundraiser - Egg Your Lawn

Our Youth have an eggclusive contract with the Easter Bunny to help with delivering and hiding Easter eggs in your yard this year. All proceeds benefit youth missions. Costs range from \$25 - \$75 depending on the number of eggs. We will also take the age of children into account when hiding the eggs. Eggs will be hidden in the evening on **Saturday, April 19th**. Reservations & payment due by *April 5th*. To sign up visit: [bit.ly/4jIZjs7](https://bit.ly/4jIZjs7)

### Easter Basket Donations 2025

Church of the Lakes is partnering with Jackson Friends and Woodlawn Church to make sure that low-income students in Jackson have a magical Easter. We are looking for donations to fill 60 Easter Baskets for area elementary students. To sign up to donate specific snack items, or sponsor the purchase of the actual basket and Bible use the QR or visit the church website. Donations need to be at the church by Sunday, April 13th.



## **WAYS TO GIVE**

Visit [churchofthelakes.org/online-giving](https://churchofthelakes.org/online-giving) or text: **give to 330-961-5524**

Offering envelopes are located in the pew pad clipboards.

For EFT instructions contact Stephanie Strock, [stephanie@churchofthelakes.org](mailto:stephanie@churchofthelakes.org)

# Children's Easter Party

KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADES  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH**

STARTS AT  
**5:30 PM**



**DINNER  
 RESURRECTION  
 EGGS,  
 SCAVENGER  
 EGG HUNT,  
 CRAFTS  
 & MORE**

**COST IS ONLY \$5  
 AND CAN BE PAID  
 AT THE DOOR**

Join us on a journey as we follow Jesus through Holy week from the Last Supper to the Empty Tomb. Children will discover why Jesus died on the cross and why His resurrection is the foundation of our faith.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT  
[CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG/EVENT/EASTER-PARTY](http://CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG/EVENT/EASTER-PARTY)



## Church of the Lakes

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

For children age 4 - 6th grade

**Mornings: June 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:45 am - 12:15 pm**

**Evenings: June 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:

[CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG](http://CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG)

# Women's Ministries Retreat

**Saturday, April 26th**  
**8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Dutch Kitchen  
 Dalton, OH

**Feasting on  
 God's Word**

A Recipe for Spiritual Growth

**Cost: \$55**  
 includes lunch

**Register by April 13th**

Registration forms at church office or visit  
[churchofthelakes.org/event/womens-retreat](http://churchofthelakes.org/event/womens-retreat)



**JESUS** in the

## Family FUN Night

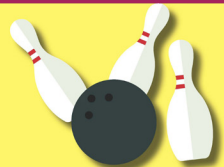
### BOWLING NIGHT

**Sunday, April 27th**  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

Register at [churchofthelakes.org](http://churchofthelakes.org)

**\$12 per person**

2 hours of bowling  
 shoe rental  
 & pizza dinner



## VBS Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to: Station Leaders, Station Assistants, Crew Leaders, Snack helpers, Dinner team, nursery workers and decorating team. Our VBS Volunteer Training meeting will be **Tuesday, April 29th**, 10:00 am or 6:30 pm in room 201. If you would like to volunteer for VBS contact Angela Fritz, [angela@churchofthelakes.org](mailto:angela@churchofthelakes.org).

Submit your news, information or announcements to [betsti@churchofthelakes.org](mailto:betsti@churchofthelakes.org).



Please pray for: Molly Milosevic, Lucy Woods, John Izquierdo, Cathy Beckley, and Eric Clark

To submit prayer requests call 330-499-8972 ext. 203 or email: [prayer@churchofthelakes.org](mailto:prayer@churchofthelakes.org).