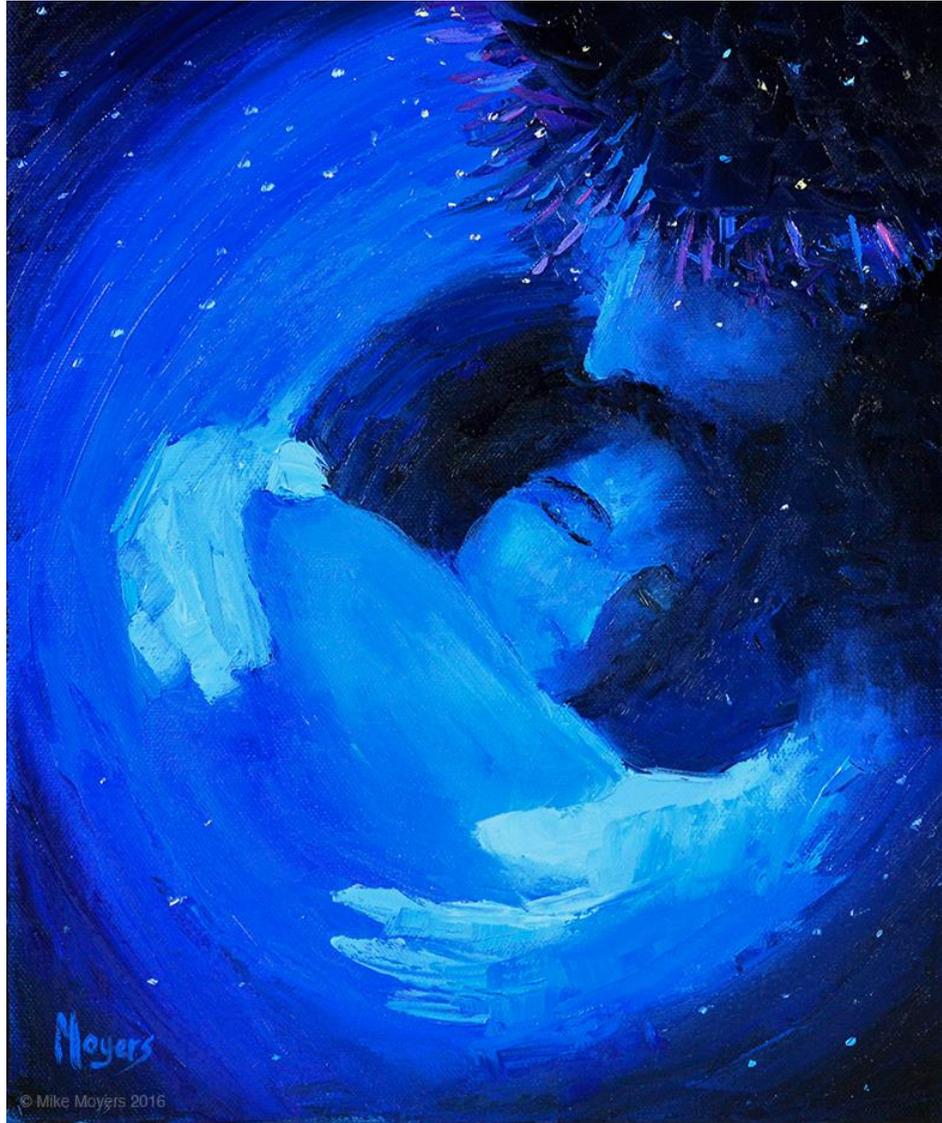


# Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*"The Inescapable God" by Mike Moyers, 2016.*

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz  
Pam Kothrade, Musician

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Please sign in using the Friendship Register located at the end of your pew.

On this tenth Sunday after Pentecost, we conclude our summer series *For the Bible Tells Me So*. For the past ten weeks we have explored sayings that many people think are in the Bible. This weekend we finish our series with the phrase, "Jesus is my personal Lord and Savior." The Bible does not exactly say this, but it does give us a lot of glimpses into Jesus' character and personhood. Today we explore Matthew 16, where Jesus says, "Who do you say that I am?" This scripture will give us a glimpse into the personal walk so many of us have sought and heard about with Christ. Is it biblical, or something else?

**Prelude** *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* J.S. Bach

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song** All Creatures of Our God and King Hymn 23 v1,2,5

**Litany of Praise and Prayer** Colossians 1:15-16, Dave Bookless

Jesus, Lord of the Earth  
By you all things were created  
All creeping things, all flying things,  
All living things, all dying things,  
The highest hills, the deepest seas,  
The strongest gale, the slightest breeze,  
The blossom on a cherry tree,  
A spinning spider's artistry,  
The smell of dry earth after rain,  
Each cell within a human brain,  
Each fallen leaf, each towering pine,  
Reveals your intricate design.

**Creator Lord, we stand amazed,  
And for your earth, we give you praise.**

Jesus, Lord of the Earth  
For you all things were created  
The smoothest pebble on the shore,  
Detritus on the forest floor,  
The undiscovered depths of space,  
The wrinkles on a baby's face;  
Each sparrow and each human hair  
Is numbered and is in your care,  
All iron and oil and diamonds too,  
Whilst used by us, belong to you,  
Forgive us Lord, for we forget,  
All things are yours, and yet,

**Provider Lord, we stand amazed,  
And with your earth, we give you praise.**

Jesus, Lord of the Earth  
In you all things now hold together  
All of earth's greatest mysteries,

And all our personal histories,  
Each planet and each grain of sand,  
You hold them in your nail-scarred hands,  
You feed the birds and clothe the flowers,  
You warm the soil and send the showers,  
You sound the rhythms of the earth,  
Of tides and seasons, death and birth,  
It is for you creation sings,  
The head, the centre of all things,

**Sustainer Lord, we stand amazed,  
And with your earth, we give you praise.**

Jesus, Lord of the earth  
In you all things are made new  
Lord God before all time began,  
Yet you became a Son of Man,  
You stepped into the world you made,  
A world once good, now spoilt, decayed,  
As Son of Man your death reversed  
The chaos of creation's curse,  
The earth itself quaked on that day,  
Released from bondage to decay,  
All things are reconciled to you,  
Creation's hope is born anew.

**Redeemer Lord, we stand amazed  
And with your earth, we give you praise.**

Jesus, Lord of the earth  
By you all things were created,  
For you all things were created,  
In you all things now hold together,  
In you all things are made new.  
And all creation cries Amen!

## Opening Prayer

### The Gloria

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile*

### First Lesson

#### [Job 38-39](#)

Job confronts God about his plight and demands an answer to why God has allowed Job to suffer unjustly. Out of a whirlwind, God gives Job a litany of answers which point to God's character as the supreme creator of the universe.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: <sup>2</sup>“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. <sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— <sup>9</sup>when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped’? <sup>12</sup>“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, <sup>13</sup>so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? <sup>14</sup>It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment. <sup>15</sup>Light is withheld from the wicked, and their uplifted arm is broken. <sup>16</sup>“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? <sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? <sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. <sup>19</sup>“Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, <sup>20</sup>that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? <sup>21</sup>Surely you know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! <sup>22</sup>“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, <sup>23</sup>which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? <sup>24</sup>What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? <sup>25</sup>“Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, <sup>26</sup>to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on the desert, which is empty of human life, <sup>27</sup>to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass? <sup>28</sup>“Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? <sup>29</sup>From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven? <sup>30</sup>The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. <sup>31</sup>“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? <sup>32</sup>Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? <sup>33</sup>Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? <sup>34</sup>“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? <sup>35</sup>Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? <sup>36</sup>Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? <sup>37</sup>Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, <sup>38</sup>when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? <sup>39</sup>“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, <sup>40</sup>when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? <sup>41</sup>Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

39 “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? 2 Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, 3 when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? 4 Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. 5 “Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, 6 to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling place? 7 It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. 8 It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. 9 “Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? 10 Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? 11 Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labor to it? 12 Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor? 13 “The ostrich’s wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. 14 For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, 15 forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. 16 It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear; 17 because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. 18 When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

19 “Do you give the horse its might? Do you clothe its neck with mane? 20 Do you make it leap like the locust? Its majestic snorting is terrible. 21 It paws violently, exults mightily; it goes out to meet the weapons. 22 It laughs at fear, and is not dismayed; it does not turn back from the sword. 23 Upon it rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin. 24 With fierceness and rage it swallows the ground; it cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. 25 When the trumpet sounds, it says ‘Aha!’ From a distance it smells the battle, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting. 26 “Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? 27 Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high? 28 It lives on the rock and makes its home in the fastness of the rocky crag. 29 From there it spies the prey; its eyes see it from far away. 30 Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is.”

**New Testament**

[Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Sermon**

*Jesus is My Personal Lord and Savior?*

Rev. Daniel Stark

**Sermon Response**

*Be Still, My Soul*

Hymn 451

**Prayers of the People**

***Hear Our Prayers, O God...For health & healing: God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3***

**Prayer Song**

*Spirit of the Living God*

Hymn 492

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me**

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me**

**Melt me mold me, Fill me use me**

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me**

## **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **Call to Offering**

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
A-men.**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**You hold nothing back from us, Amazing God, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. We spend so much time eating out, we cannot feel the deep ache our hunger for you causes. You invite us to set aside our old ways, and walk with you, but unknown paths fill us with fear.**

**Have mercy on us, Bread of Heaven. We come to the Table of grace and hope, not for our personal satisfaction, but for the joy of recognizing the One who calls us to new life, and for the grace to share this joy with everyone we meet. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.**

**God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Communion**

### **Invitation to Communion**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

God is with you

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**In joy we give our thanks and praise!**

And so, with your people on Earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise your name in this unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory:  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

## **The Story**

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

## **Sending Song**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Hymn 84

## Sending

One: Jesus loves me yes I know,

**All: for the Bible tells me so.**

One: Little ones to him belong,

**All: they are weak but he is strong,**

One: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,

**All: yes, Jesus loves me...**

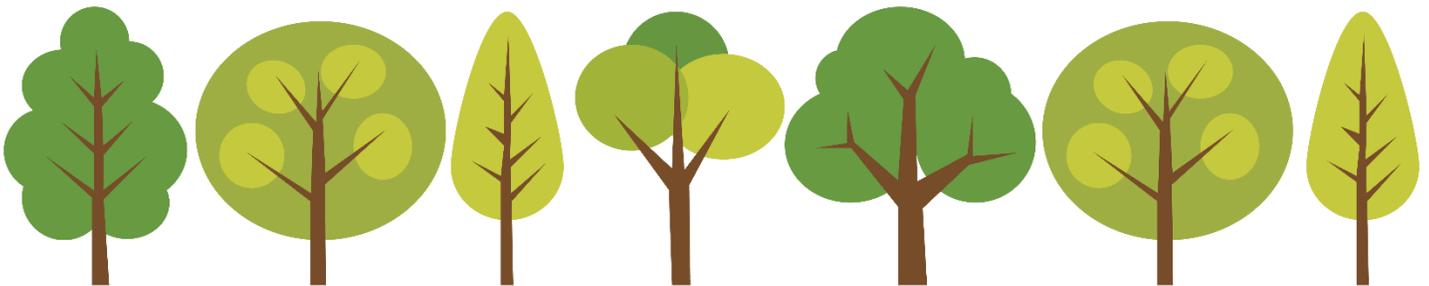
One: ...the Bible *definitely* tells us so! Amen!

## Postlude

*Postlude in E-flat*

Archer

*Music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737161  
Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways*



## Announcements

Please take a moment to welcome back Pastor Dan!

### Annual Clean-up Day

Please sign up at the Lenox St or Fellowship Hall bulletin board to help on Work Day. August 21<sup>st</sup>, we meet here at church at 10am to do our annual cleaning day as a congregation. We will follow up with a celebratory cook out at 2pm.

### Arts and Science Literacy Camp (ASLC)

ASLC extends learning opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and a range of learning abilities.

**We are supporting their efforts by providing snacks for the 60 campers for the week of August 23.**

Following is a list of items or cash we will be collecting from now till August 18<sup>th</sup>. All donations will be appreciated and no gift is too small.

#### ASLC needs for week of August 23

60 each Breakfast fruit bars

60 each organic fruit snacks

60 each snack packs of goldfish, pretzels, cheez-it, teddy grahams, etc., or similar

Money or Outpost gift card for bananas and clementine oranges . ( \$20 – \$30)

#### Additional Items used weekly are

Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, bottled water

***A large plastic tote labeled ASLC*** is near the office for collecting your donations. Cash, checks, or gift cards can be given to Jim or Randene Wick or mailed to the church office. Checks can be made out to Christ Church, attn: ASLC Camp.

For more information about ASLC, visit the Tippe Church website at

<http://www.tippechurch.org/arts-and-science-literacy-camp-for-kids.html>

Thank you for your support.

### Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

8/1 – Loretta Johannsen

8/2 – Casey Schmeling

8/3 – Andy Boyle

8/3 – Tom Dohoney

8/4 – Heather Strausbaugh

8/5 – Jon Simons

8/7 – Sarita Gwinn

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).

Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

