

September 19, 2021

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Over the next nine months of 2021-22, we will, again, be using the Narrative Lectionary readings in worship. After the New Year, we will focus on John's Gospel; but this fall, prior to the start of Advent, we will look at texts from the Old Testament with the theme: "Out of Chaos, Hope." Some of you may recognize this as the mission statement of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), a service arm of our denomination that responds to crises such as fires and floods. For, as much as we might wish that God turn chaos into order, hope is really what we need the most; and we are called to join with God who is already at work in the world providing for that need.

PRELUDES

*God Will Take Care of Thee
Faith of Our Fathers*

*Robert W. Thygerson
Lani Smith*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Why do we give thanks and praise today?

P: Because we are each created in God's image.

L: Why are we called to reach out and love God's children?

P: Because we are all created in God's image.

L: Why are we called to care for God's creation?

P: Because we are each and all created in God's image.

L: As those created in the image of God and beloved by God,

All: Let us worship God!

WELCOMING SONG #2061 (STF)

*Creator of Mountains
(verse 1)*

St. Denio

Creator of mountains, of glaciers and streams, Great Splasher of fountains and Dreamer of dreams, we gather in wonder and praise for Your grace. Responding, we ponder our work in this place.

(verse 2)

Creator of peoples and races and tribes, not bound by church steeples or what myth describes, we celebrate now our diversity here, in penitence vow to accept and not fear.

(verse 3)

Created for caring for all human need, we seek to be daring in thought and in deed. Turn us from all strife that demeans or divides. Reform us for life that empowers and abides.

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CALL TO CONFESSION (adapted from I John 3)

L: Christ came to take away our sin and reclaim us as beloved children of God.
In that confidence, let us humbly confess our sin and the sin of this world:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive us. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in the likeness of your image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news. Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Believe this good news and give thanks. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE #575

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us Kyrie Eleison (Pardini)
Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor John

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord our God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may obey your will and live always for your glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 21:1-8 (Common English Bible)

The LORD was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the LORD carried out just what he had promised her. ² She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. ³ Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. ⁴ Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. ⁶ Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” ⁷ She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I’ve given birth to a son when he was old!” ⁸ The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet arr. by Moses
Men's Trio: Ron Cechner, Chip Steele, Don Sullivan

SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 22:1-14 (Common English Bible)

After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” Abraham answered, “I’m here.” ² God said, “Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you.” ³ Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him. ⁴ On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?” Abraham said, “I’m here, my son.” Isaac said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son.” The two of them walked on together. ⁹ They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ But the LORD’s messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham? Abraham?” Abraham said, “I’m here.” ¹² The messenger said, “Don’t stretch out your hand against the young man, and don’t do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn’t hold back your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named that place “the LORD sees.” That is the reason people today say, “On this mountain the LORD is seen.”

SERMON SERIES:

Out of Chaos, Hope – “God Provides Alternatives”

Rev. John Wahl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Land of Rest

Elizabeth Krouse

RESPONSE #647

Give Thanks

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say, “We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!” Give thanks

By Henry Smith; ©1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music
CCL #11043756

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING SONG #378 *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

Merle's Tune

(verse 1)

We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

(verse 2)

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home: we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

(verse 3)

When wars of desolation and hate come to an end, when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend," still peace in all its fullness will only have begun: shalom for all creation begins with justice done.

(verse 4)

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way, to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

Text by Kathleen R. Moore
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro Energico

Christian Cappelen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health and Safety Protocols

With the return to in-person worship services, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Windows will be open and fans turned on, so please dress to be comfortable.
- In order for proper distancing, please do not sit in the pews that have been blocked or directly next to people not in your family.
 - Please wear face coverings when inside the church building.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- Hymnals and pew bibles have been put away, the words are printed in the bulletin.
- At this time, we will not be passing the peace, the offering plate, or holding hands for the benediction at the close of the service.
- Since we are livestreaming the service, we ask that you remain seated in the pews during the prelude and postlude.
- After the worship service has concluded, we ask that you move outside for any extended conversations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.

Bill Smyser Funeral Service Information

We are saddened to share that Elder, choir member, and long-time member, Bill Smyser, passed away on Friday, September 10. The Smyser family invites you to join them as we celebrate Bill's life and give witness to the resurrection.

Friday, September 24:

Visitation in the Narthex, 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, September 25:

Visitation in the Narthex, 10-11 a.m.

Funeral Service in Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

Luncheon in Fellowship Hall, Noon

Memorial Gifts can be made to Valley Presbyterian Church or Geauga County Meals on Wheels.

"What Is God Like?"

Copies of this beautiful children's book – co-written by Matthew Paul Turner and Rachel Held Evans – will be available at church the next two Sundays for anyone who would like to take one for themselves or to share with someone they know.

On October 3, we will introduce and have available another book – *"In Defense of Kindness"* by Bruce Reyes Chow – that will be a resource for some adult study and conversation over the remainder of the fall.

Both of these works can, also, be found through most booksellers.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



There will be a **Holiday Sale Fundraiser to benefit Heart of Valley Preschool** in Fellowship Hall on:

Friday, October 8

(12 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, October 9

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

The **store will be open** on:

Friday, October 15

(10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, October 16

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Adult Choir Rehearsals



The first rehearsal for Valley's Adult Choir will be on
Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.
in the Choir Loft.

We will sing during the worship service on September 26th!! New members are
always welcome; so think about adding your voice to our group. The
fellowship, the sharing of our time and our talents make the choir more than
just a singing ensemble;
IT IS A FAMILY.



Hope to see you on the 23rd of September at 7 p.m.!

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items for September to help stock the
shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**White rice, tea bags, white sugar, broths/bouillons, wide egg
noodles, canned chicken, Tylenol or low-dose aspirin.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve
donations.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
www.valleypresbychurch.org
VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Gary Brockett

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Jeanne DeLaney