

January 23, 2022
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDES

Face to Face
Meditation on Showalter

Steven Scott
Ben Logan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #288

Spirit of the Living God
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.

Living God

By Daniel Iverson
©1935, renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
CCL #11043756

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, and sing, all you people

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth.

L: For God, for God alone my soul waits in silence.

P: Steadfast love belongs to the Lord, who cares for us always.

All: Let us worship God.

***WELCOMING SONG** *Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him*
(from Known Unknowns)
(verse 1)

Meter

***Jesus calls us here to meet him as through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise, praise the Son who calls us
friends, praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.***
(verse 2)

***Jesus calls us to confess him Word of life and Lord of all, sharer of
our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy, human
story; tell his tales that all may hear; tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.***
(verse 3)

***Jesus calls us to each other, though we may have wandered far: creed
and color, class and gender, neither limit nor debar. Join the hand of
friend and stranger, join the hands of age and youth, join the faithful
and the doubter in their common search for truth.***

Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule
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CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 43)

L: When we pass through deep waters, or go through times of trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that we are often confused, bruised, and broken; you call on us to change our lives, yet we do not listen or take action. You have given us good news to share, yet we remain stubborn and silent. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to repent of our sins and be re-created in your Son's image; bearing witness to the world of your amazing grace and love.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (from Isaiah 43)

L: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE #695

Change My Heart, O God *Change My Heart*
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

By Eddie Espinosa
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TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. John Wahl

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us – as we read this holy Word – so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – John 3:1-8 (Common English Bible)

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.” ⁴ Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ ⁸ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

SONG OF RESPONSE #291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
(Refrain)

Spirit

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

(verse 1)

You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

(verse 2)

You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand; and you goaded your people with a law and a land. When they were confounded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

(verse 3)

You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still. And down in the city, you called once again when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

(verse 4)

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.

Text by James K. Manley

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – John 3:9-21 (Common English Bible)

⁹ Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?" ¹⁰ "Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? ¹¹ I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son. ¹⁹ "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. ²⁰ All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. ²¹ Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

SERMON

"Born Again, Again?"

Rev. John Wahl

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Offertory on Restoration

Tom Birchwood

DOXOLOGY #643

Now Thank We All Our God Nun Danket Alle Gott

(verse 1)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #774** *There Is Now a New Creation*

Stuttgart

(verse 1)

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ, peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

(verse 2)

Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone: now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.

(verse 3)

Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child. All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.

(verse 4)

Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast; Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.

(verse 5)

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ. Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

Text by David Gambrell

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***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Ye Holy Angels Bright

Franklin Ritter

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health and Safety Protocols

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

- Windows may be open or fans turned on to provide appropriate air circulation.
- Face coverings are recommended when inside the church building.
 - Socially distance as able in the pews and sanctuary.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- 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.
- 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.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The store will be closed through January, 2022
The store will reopen in February.

Save the Date - Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 30 at noon, for the purposes of electing Elders, Deacons, and members of the nominating committee; approving terms of call; and any other necessary business. Please plan to attend, if you are able. The Annual Report will be available the prior Sunday, January 23.

Thank you

Thank you to the congregation for all your well wishes and congratulations on my graduation from Kent State University with a Bachelors Degree in December. I appreciate all the kind words and thoughts as this was a long time in the making. It is a blessing working here at Valley and with you all. I am forever grateful! Blessings, Rebecca Bliss

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Garlic powder, onion powder, pepper, Jiffy corn bread mix, vegetable oil, grits, oatmeal, kid friendly cereals (no plain Cheerios please).

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

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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