

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 7, 2022**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDES**

*A Quiet Moment*  
*The Cup of Salvation*

*Tom Birchwood*  
*Gilbert M. Martin*

**WELCOME**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #405**

*Praise God for This Holy Ground*      *Heymonystraat*  
*(verse 1)*

***Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.***  
***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.***

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**CALL TO WORSHIP (from Hebrews 11, Luke 12)**

L: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

**P: The conviction of things not seen.**

L: Happy are those who trust in the Lord,

**P: Whose hope is in God's steadfast love.**

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #49** *The God of Abraham Praise*

*Leoni*

*(verse 1)*

***The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the Ancient of  
Eternal Days, the God of love! The Lord, the great I am, by earth and  
heaven confessed, we bow before your holy name, forever blest.***

*(verse 3)*

***Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest, a land of sacred  
liberty and Sabbath rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine  
abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.***

*(verse 4)*

***You have eternal life implanted in the soul; your love shall be our strength  
and stay, while ages roll. We praise you, living God! We praise your holy  
name: the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: We have been buried with Christ in baptism in order that we might be  
raised with him through faith, in the power of God. Trusting in God's grace,  
let us confess our sin:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful and loving God, we confess that we have not lived in faith and love. We offer you pageants of piety and ignore your call to do what is right. We busy ourselves with idle pleasures but fail to work for justice and peace. Forgive us, God of grace. Grant us the gift of faith so that we might set our hope on the better things that you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(Moment of Silent Reflection)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Once we were dead in our sin. Now, we are alive in Christ. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*CHORAL RESPONSE #519

*You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*  
*(refrain)*

*Jernigan*

***You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.***

By Dennis L. Jernigan / ©1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (admin. PraiseCharts.com) / CCL #11043756

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Our peace comes from knowing how much God loves us in Jesus Christ. With God's help, we try to love and forgive one another as Christ loves and forgives us. The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## WORD

## UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious and eternal God, quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us your eternal truth, that – by the power of the Holy Spirit – we may receive grace to show forth Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Psalm 33:12-22*

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

<sup>14</sup> From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

<sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. <sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

<sup>17</sup> The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save. <sup>18</sup> Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope

in his steadfast love, <sup>19</sup> to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. <sup>21</sup> Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast

love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**\*SHARING SONG #523** *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

*Bicentennial*

*(refrain)*

***You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat; come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.***

*(verse 1)*

***As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice, so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 3)*

***Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured? Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 5)*

***You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be, to serve each other in your name in truth and charity.***

*(refrain)*

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## **THE SECOND LESSON**      *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

## **THE MESSAGE**

*"Things Hoped For"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## **UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Belhar Confession)**

**We believe in God, three-in-one – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. We believe that God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and gives sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows, and thwarts the path of the ungodly. We believe that God has done this from the beginning of the world and will do it to the end. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

\*Please stand as you are able.

## WITNESS

### **GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available in the narthex for making monetary donations.*

#### **OFFERTORY**

*To Give Thanks*

*Lani Smith*

#### **\*DOXOLOGY #675**

*All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night  
(verse 4)*

*Tallis' Canon*

***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.***

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy God, we give you thanks that you have made us one in Christ through the bread of heaven and cup of salvation. Send us forth, in the power of your Spirit, to proclaim the peace of Christ and share your reconciling love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### **\*SENDING SONG #731**

*Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm  
(verse 1)*

*Repton*

***Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak:  
on God's good promise they rely, so while they live and when they die  
how forcefully they speak: the strong, who once were weak!***

*(verse 2)*

***Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight:  
who seek the city God has planned, the true, eternal promised land, and  
steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.***

*(verse 3)*

***Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone:  
they show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true,  
for God's concerns they own: God's love through them is known.***

(verse 4)

***Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today: though often by this world despised, their hearts by God are richly prized. Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.***

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## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

*Gerhard Krapf*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **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.
- When inside the church building, face coverings are optional based on personal comfort level.
  - 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 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.



### **Flowers**

The flowers are dedicated by Glenna Pool in memory of loved ones.

### **Gardening Group**

Meet in the Faith Garden for an hour of fellowship and to keep our raised beds looking beautiful.

**Wednesdays - 10 a.m.  
August 10 and 24**

### **Walking Group**

Meet at Frohring Meadows (small shelter) for a brief devotion and then a walk – you choose your own pace and distance.

**Friday - 10 a.m.  
August 19**

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, August 12**

(10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, August 13**

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

## Blessing of the Backpacks

**Family Friendly Service in the Outdoor Chapel**

**Sunday, August 14 at 4:30 p.m.**

Join us in the beautiful outdoor chapel for a short, informal time of prayer and music to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. Activity bags will be available for young children. After the service, join us for refreshments (cookies and ice cream) in Fellowship Hall.



**Share God's Love**

**Faith Build 2022**

This year, we are partnering with fifteen other churches in the Cleveland area to sponsor a Faith Build home rehabilitation with Habitat for Humanity. The home is located at 9815 Ewell Avenue in the Buckeye neighborhood. You are invited to sign-up now for any of our work dates – anyone age 16 or older is free to join us, for either a full or half day. Rides to the work site will be coordinated for each of these days.

**Thursday, August 18**

**Thursday, September 29**

See the July / August Valley Voice for instructions on registering, as well as a link to the registration page.

## CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



**Small boxes of sugar, boxed tea bags, coffee, boxed white rice, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, egg noodles.**

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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Heart of Valley Preschool

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan

Liturgist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Organist: John Kautzman

Greeter: Dusty Timmons