

**The Way through the Sea
October 2, 2022
World Communion Sunday**

PRELUDE

*Break Thou the Bread of Life
Gift of Finest Wheat*

*Paul Karvonen
Ron Schmoltze*

WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #399

God Welcomes All

Themba Amen

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.***

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of all nations, you have poured out blessings upon the earth;

All: Grant us eyes to see your gifts of faith and love.

One: Empower us to enact the vision of your peaceable kingdom;

All: Where destruction and violence are no more; where suffering and wars shall cease.

One: In our worship today, empower us to be sent out with joy,

All: As bearers of your hope in a hurting world.

***GATHERING SONG #612** *We Praise You, O God*

Kremser

(verse 1)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

(verse 2)

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

(verse 3)

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION (from 2 Timothy)

One: God's grace was given to us in Christ before the ages began. In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in hateful and destructive ways. Trusting in Christ's mercy that never ends, let us confess our sins against God and one another:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you created the whole world and called it good, but look at the world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose confrontation over civility, disunity over diversity. You call us to love the least of these among us, but when we hear the cries of the oppressed, we choose our own comfort. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Renew within us your gifts – the spirit of love, mercy, and self-discipline – that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your reign and realm of peace.

(Moment of Silent Reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Lamentations)

One: We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning. Believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***CHORAL RESPONSE #288**

Spirit of the Living God *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.***

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Jude 2)**

One: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the quietness of this hour, we wait for your Spirit. Tune our ears to hear the promise of your salvation. Summon our will to respond to your Word with justice and love, so that we might go forth with joy. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

THE FIRST LESSON*Psalm 106:1-12*

Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ² Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD or declare all his praise? ³ Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. ⁴ Remember us, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help us when you deliver them, ⁵ that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that we may glory in your heritage. ⁶ Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. ⁷ Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wonderful works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea. ⁸ Yet he saved them for his name's sake, so that he might make known his mighty power. ⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry; he led them through the deep as through a desert. ¹⁰ So he saved them from the hand of the foe and delivered them from the hand of the enemy. ¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. ¹² Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.

CHORAL ANTHEM*God of Grace**Getty & Rea***THE SECOND LESSON** *Exodus 14:5-6, 10-14, 21-29*

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and

covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

THE MESSAGE

“God’s Deliverance”

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from Exodus 15)

The Lord is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? In your steadfast love, you led the people whom you redeemed. You brought them and planted them on your own mountain. You made your home with them. Your people are your sanctuary. The Lord will reign forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

Paul Kretzschmar

***DOXOLOGY #710**

*We Lift Our Voices
(refrain)*

Offering

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.***

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks and praise, God of all creation...with fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices to sing:

*Please stand as you are able.

CONGREGATION SINGS #552

Holy, Holy, Holy *Land of Rest*
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: We give you thanks that in the fullness of time...trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the blessing of the grain of the earth and fruit of the vine be a reminder of the true joy of communion that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love. Sustained by your Word, fed by this holy meal, may we go out with joy and be led forth in peace; through Christ who is our peace. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #80** *You Shall Go Out with Joy* *The Trees of the Field*
(sing three times)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Love Has Come* *Maher*

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "Picardy"* *David Lasky*

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.

North Church

October is our partner month with North Church – a unique congregation in downtown Cleveland that ministers to a predominantly homeless or housing-insecure population.

Each Sunday in October, members of Valley will, if they choose, worship with the congregation of North and deliver food to be shared at their after-church meal. Sometimes this is the best opportunity for good food and fellowship that worshippers have each week. Because North's kitchen is currently not available, we will be preparing meals at Valley to be transported and served at North. If you would like to assist with meal preparation and / or taking meals on Sunday mornings, please sign up in the Narthex or through the office.

Meal preparation times (meet in the church kitchen to work approximately one hour):

Saturday, October 1, 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 8, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, October 14, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 22, 2:30 p.m.
Friday, October 28, 10:00 a.m.

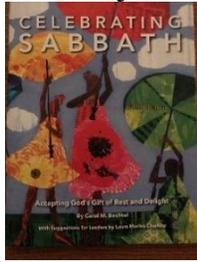
Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:
Friday, October 21 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, October 22 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle is a group of Valley Presbyterian ladies who meet the second Tuesday of each month. Guided by God, we have discussions and share insights. We learn about teachings in the Bible and about ourselves.



Our second meeting is on Tuesday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Church Library. We will be studying Lesson 2, *Sabbath and Creation*, in “*Celebrating Sabbath*”, a Horizons bible study.

Please contact Carol Ferguson, Circle Leader, for more information. All Valley women are welcome to join this delightful group for fellowship and discussion.

Grief Group

Sooner or later, loss touches all of us. Many of us need help to get through our grief and want to help others get through theirs.

Valley will be hosting a Grief Group on six consecutive Thursday mornings, from 10 – 11:30 a.m., beginning on October 13.



Using the book *Good Mourning: Getting Through Your Grief* by Allan Hugh Cole, Professor of Pastoral Care at Austin (TX) Presbyterian Theological Seminary, this group will provide a safe space to take steps through the mourning process.

Whether your loss was recent or you've had some time to live with it, you are invited to join us. Please contact the church office to reserve a copy of the book.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items in October & November to help stock the shelves at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center in preparation for Thanksgiving:



Cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned turkey gravy, Stove Top stuffing mix, cooking oil, mayo, butter, celery, white potatoes, onions, eggs, sweet relish, brownie mix, whole turkey.

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

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Sue Doughman