

**January 22, 2023**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**PRELUDES**

*Psalm Prelude*  
*I Love to Tell the Story*

*Carl Hager*  
*Sarah Douglas*

**WELCOME**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #314**

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

*Christ, Be Our Light*

*(verse 1)*

***Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: God is our shelter and our shade.

**All: We will sing to the God of our salvation!**

**\*OPENING SONG #336**

*We Gather Together*  
*(verse 1)*

*Kremser*

***We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.***

*(verse 2)*

***Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!***

*(verse 3)*

***We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: Into this space, we bring our weights and burdens – the things we have done or not done, said or not said. Trusting in God's mercy, we lay down those burdens before God.

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Christ our Messiah, you call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world, but we are afraid to put our trust in you, afraid to follow, afraid we will fail. We are afraid of welcoming others in, thinking there will not be enough. We are afraid to let go of the things we hoard, believing they will make us secure. Forgive us. Transform our fear into faithfulness and enable us to walk with you, that we may be part of your work of blessing in the world.**

*(Moment of Silent Prayer)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: when we cry for help, God says “Here, I am!” When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE #442

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*  
*(verse 4)*

*Woodworth*

***Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Isaiah 60)

One: “Arise, shine, for you light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.” May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## WORD

## CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #469

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*      *Children Praying*

***Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.***

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## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

\*Please stand as you are able.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Shout to the Lord*

*Zschech & Sherman*

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

*Matthew 5:13-20*

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## MESSAGE

*“The Law Fulfilled”*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## UNISON ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE (Psalm 29:1, 11)

**To the Lord who speaks to us, strengthens us, and blesses us with peace, be all glory and honor forever. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## WITNESS

## CALL TO OFFERING

*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

*Epiphany*

*Gerald Peterson*

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE #205

*Live in Charity (sing twice)*

*Ubi Caritas (Taizé)*

***Live in charity and steadfast love.***

***Live in charity; God will dwell with you.***

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## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*SENDING SONG #852**

*When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*      *I'll Fly Away*  
(verse 1)

***When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice. When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.***

(refrain)

***We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice. All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!***

(verse 2)

***When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice. When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.***

(refrain)

(verse 3)

***When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice. When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.***

(refrain)

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Go Now In Peace*      *Price / Besig*

**POSTLUDE**      *The Rock and Salvation*      *Franklin Ritter*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Annual Meeting – January 29, 2023**



Session has appointed January 29, 2023, as the date for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation. This meeting – open to all members and friends of Valley – will begin immediately following the worship service.

### **Pass-it-on Resale Store**



The **store will be open** on:  
**Friday, February 10, 2023** (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
**Saturday, February 11, 2023** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

### **CFPCC Food Bank Needs**

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



**Eggs, butter, milk, oil, pancake mix, laundry detergent, bleach, fresh meat: sausage, kielbasa, chicken.**

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

## 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.

<b><u>VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</u></b>		
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