

October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday
Peace and Global Witness Offering

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Bread of the World
Gift of Finest Wheat

Todd Kendall
Ron Schmoltze

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #388

Come All You People *Uyai Mose*

***Come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come all you people,
come and praise your Maker; come all you people, come and praise your
Maker; come now and worship the Lord.***

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,

All: To celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

One: This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.

All: We praise God's name! Amen!

***OPENING SONG #526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ *Linstead*
(verse 1)

***Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and
heard. Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word
around: loaves abound!***

(verse 2)

***Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching
people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives
again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

(verse 3)

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us
love to tell, bread to share: God everywhere! Jesus lives again; earth
can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain. In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. You gave us wisdom and creativity and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honored the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Phil. 3:9; Eph. 2:17)

One: “God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,” through whom our sins were forgiven. May the Lord help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.”

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #544**

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (A Non-Traditional Blessing of Peace)**

One: Bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships. Bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people. Bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war. Bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world. Bless us with the peace of Christ; may it be with you.

All: And also with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When we are facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 145:1-8*

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate. ⁶ They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Welcome Table

Raney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SERMON

"Goodness and Righteousness"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (w/video)

WITNESS

INVITATION TO OFFERING – Peace and Global Witness

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

OFFERTORY

Thy Table I Approach

Jan Bender

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (w/video)

#598

Amen, We Praise Your Name (video) Amen Siakudumisa

Translation –

Amen, we praise your name, O God! Amen, we praise your name, O God! Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, we praise, your name, O God!

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION / SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

***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** *Lead Me Lord* *Becker*

POSTLUDE *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* *Anthony Giamanco*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Church

October Partnership Month

North Presbyterian Church – which shares space with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries at E. 45th and Superior Ave. – has long been a ministry partner with Valley. The first four Sundays in October, volunteers will help prepare and serve meals at North, joining them in worship and fellowship. This year, we are excited to share our partnership month with Christ Presbyterian Church in Chesterland – looking to have 2-4 volunteers from each church attend North on Sundays.

Valley will be preparing the main dish and sides for the following Sunday; meeting in the church kitchen to prepare the meal:

Saturday, October 7 – 10 a.m.-noon

For Sundays, October 15 and 22, Christ Presbyterian will be providing the main course and sides; Valley will be responsible for deserts.

Eagle Scout Project

Kenston Senior, Matthew Louis, has chosen to refurbish the south courtyard (outside the preschool classrooms) with new trellises, landscaping, and a picnic table for his Eagle Scout Project. If you would like to support the project financially, you can designate your offerings "Eagle Scout Project."

Dougbe River School Gala

Sunday, October 1, 2023

In-person – 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Online – 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The Dougbe River Presbyterian School is a ministry partner of Valley Church and the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. Located in Liberia, it now has an enrollment of 240 students, a working farm, and the current construction of a girls' dormitory.

Using mission funds raised by Pass-It-On, the church has purchased a table for eight Valley members to attend the Gala, which includes appetizers, dinner, silent auction, and a program update about the school.

Banquet Center at St. Noel
35200 Chardon Road
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

Homeless Hookup CLE visits North Church



Sunday, October 8, 2023

On Sunday, October 8, the Homeless Hookup CLE hygiene bus will be at North Church after worship to offer haircuts, clothes, and hygiene bags. A carpool from Valley will be going down immediately after worship to join in the festivities. If you have not been to North, this is a great time to get involved.

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, October 10, 2023

This year's Bible study is:

Sacred Encounter: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ In the Gospel of Luke.

Study books are \$10.00. Large print is \$11.00.

**Meeting: VPC Library
The 2nd Tuesday of the month
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
September through May**

All women interested are welcome to join.
To purchase a study book, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Any fresh meats and vegetables, milk, eggs, flour, sugar, spaghetti sauces, pasta, soups, macaroni & cheese, SpaghettiOs, ravioli, or anything you would like to donate.

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

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, October 27, 2023 (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

Saturday, October 28, 2023 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Heidi Cregar, Director
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Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lois Urban

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeters: Sue & Dick Doughman