

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDES

A Quiet Interlude George Lachenauer
If You But Trust in God to Guide You Gerald Peterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #705

You Are Holy *You Are Holy*
You are holy; you are mighty; you are worthy, worthy of praise.
I will follow; I will listen; I will love you all of my days.

By Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton / ©1994 Imboden Music & Martha Jo Music (admin. Music Services) / CCL #11043756

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Where two or three are gathered together,

All: God is in their midst.

One: We gather to proclaim the promises,

All: To retell the stories,

One: And to remember who we are as people of God.

All: Let us worship!

***OPENING SONG #336**

We Gather Together *Kremser*
(verse 1)

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: Let us lay aside our acts of selfishness and pride, and put on instead the garments of goodness. Let us live honorably, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we confess now:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love one another. Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor. And yet, we have failed to master what it is to love. We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and thoughtless lack of action. Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly, and as generously as you love; following your way and fulfilling your will.

*Please stand as you are able.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Christ does not condemn, but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life. Let us not take this forgiveness for granted, but allow it to transform how we live and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #835**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
(refrain)

Closer Walk

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Romans 5:1-2)**

One: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WORD

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION#458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Thy Word

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Text by Amy Grant, 1984 / ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)/Word Music / CCL #11043756

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 51:1-8*

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. ⁷ Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people who have my teaching in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. ⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my deliverance will be forever and my salvation to all generations.

SPECIAL MUSIC *It Is Well With My Soul / The River's Gonna Keep On Rolling*

Gill & Bannister

Vocal Duet: Ron Cechner & Don Sullivan

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SERMON

"Living Bodies"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

WITNESS

INVITATION 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

Delight in the Lord

Gregg Sewell

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SENDING SONG #2230 (STF)

Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing
(verse 1)

Sugar Grove

Lord, we come to ask your blessing on the love that makes us one; here, as Christians, to acknowledge you are Lord, and you alone.

(verse 2)

God of love, unless you bless us how can we each other bless? Only as you live within us is there depth of happiness.

(verse 3)

May our loving be a sharing of the gifts we each possess; may no failure of forbearance turn our love to bitterness.

(verse 4)

Lord, we come to ask your blessing in the presence of our friends: Grant us joy that blesses others, grant us love that never ends.

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Marche Postlude

Theodore Dubois

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, September 12th

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. to 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.

To My White Friends Who Know Me

Dr. Debbie Plummer's play, "To My White Friends Who Know Me", will be at Forest Hill Church on September 9 and 10. This special presentation encourages audiences to make an effort to cross racial lines in friendship and work toward racial equity. Dr. Plummer will be a part of the post-show discussion.

Showtimes:

Sunday, September 10, from 2-4 p.m. (open seating starts at 1:20 p.m.)

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Forest Hill Church with the link in the September newsletter or type the following in your browser:

https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/78a418?mc_cid=c038b32a0a&mc_eid=ffe3299a72

September Listening Sessions

We want to hear from you!! As part of our Thriving Congregations program, Valley will be hosting three listening sessions at the church in September. These are one-hour gatherings of six to eight people for the purpose of bringing people together to tell their stories, identify areas of commitment and concern, and discern identity through shared hopes, concerns, desires, dreams, and possibilities for action.

We encourage all members and friends of Valley to attend one of these gatherings. They will each be moderated (and notes will be taken) by members of the Thriving Congregations team. All the gatherings will take place in the church library. The dates and times are:

Sunday, September 10 – noon-1 p.m.
Monday, September 18 – 7-8 p.m.
Sunday, September 24 – noon-1 p.m.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex, or you can use the Sign-up Genius on the church website or in the September newsletter.

Adult Choir



The Adult Choir of Valley will be starting their rehearsals on Thursday, September 14th, at 7 p.m. in the Choir Loft. Valley's Choir is a great organization to be a part of with fellowship, singing, sharing time together, social activities, and praising the Lord in song. Consider becoming a part of the Choir this year; it's time to share your talents.

SEE YOU ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 7 PM!!!!!!!

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, September 15, 2023 (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

Saturday, September 16, 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.

Community Meal – Tuesday, September 19



Continuing this month, we will be engaging in our community meal program: preparing dinners to be available for pick-up or delivery. These meals are our gift to the community: to anyone who is in need of the food or the love that goes into making it.

The menu for the September 19th meal is: Chicken cordon blue, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls, tiramisu.

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m.; and distributing / delivering from 4-5:30 p.m. Sign up on the church website or in the September newsletter.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center for a Fall Snack Pack program at the end of September:



Any snack item, whether it be snack size or full size, such as chips, popcorn, pretzels, candy, apples, etc.

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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Greeter: Tanya Fouts