

**September 24, 2023**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDES**

*Adagio* *Charles-Marie Widor*  
*Lead Me, Lord, in Thy Righteousness* *Samuel S. Wesley*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #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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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.

**All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!**

One: We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

**All: Let us worship, praising the Lord, our God.**

**\*OPENING SONG #24**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* *Holy Manna*  
*(verse 1)*

***God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space, we,  
your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you. Great  
Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.***

*(verse 2)*

***Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings row on row. Yet their  
windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below, where the  
lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow, lost to purpose and to  
meaning, scarcely caring where they go.***

*(verse 4)*

***As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew; children of  
creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove  
rich with promise, each endeavor well begun. Great Creator, give use  
guidance till our goals and yours are one.***

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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God, but our human self-interest often gets the better of us. In humility and faith, let us confess together:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of generosity, we sometimes find ourselves confused when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves to be more deserving than others. We nurse anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.**

*(Moment of Silent Confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us. We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives. In Christ we are forgiven.

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

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE #71

*Surely, It is God Who Saves Me*  
*(refrain)*

*First Song*

***Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.***

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

One: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>We 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 *Psalm 119:33-40*

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. <sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain. <sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word. <sup>38</sup> Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. <sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. <sup>40</sup> See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*The Potter's Hand*

*Zschech & Larson*

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Romans 13:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off<sup>[a]</sup> the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## **SERMON**

*“Love Fulfills”*

*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 for making monetary donations.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Offertory in B-flat*

*Johann Erasmus Kindermann*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## **\*SENDING SONG #722**

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

*Canonbury*

*(verse 1)*

***Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone. As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.***

*(verse 3)*

***O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart. And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.***

*(verse 5)*

***O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.***

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

## **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Lead Me Lord*

*Becker*

## **POSTLUDE**

*To God Be the Glory*

*Edward Broughton*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thank you!!



The Music Ministry of Valley would like to thank all of the many musicians who shared their musical talents with the congregation throughout the summer months. We are so blessed to have a variety of talents from soloists to instrumentalists, octets to duets, guitars, banjos, clarinets, saxophones, drums, xylophones, and keyboards.

Your time and willingness to do this is an offering that is shared with all of us here at Valley. As John F. Kennedy said, "We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives". SO.....THANK YOU!!!

### 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 first two Sundays; meeting in the church kitchen to prepare the meals.

**Friday, September 29 – 10 a.m.-noon**

**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.

### Book Study - "Poverty, by America" by Matthew Desmond

This fall, Valley is focusing its mission efforts in the areas of poverty and homelessness. In addition to taking action, it is, also, important to learn more about some of the conditions and misconceptions about why poverty is so prevalent in such a prosperous nation.

As one way of better educating ourselves about poverty in the United States, you are invited to read Matthew Desmond's recent book, *Poverty, by America*.

Material from this book will be a focus of the October 1 sermon on World Communion Sunday and the Peace and Global Witness offering. Two discussion times for the book are planned:

**Tuesday, September 26 – 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, September 27 – 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

The book is available from most national and local booksellers.

## 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."

## Douge River School Gala

**Sunday, October 1, 2023**

**In-person – 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Online – 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

The Douge 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

## 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](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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Liturgist: Dusty Timmons

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Greeter: Beth Krause