

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES

*Melodia Sacra
Higher Ground*

*Lani Smith
Steven Scott*

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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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God is with us.

All: God calls us here to worship.

One: Drop your nets and leave your boats. Jesus calls us.

All: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING SONG (Known Unknowns)

*Shout for Joy, You Sons and Daughters
(verse 1)*

Psalm 37

***Shout for joy, you sons and daughters, who delight to praise God's name.
Play and strum your skillful music; with your lips new songs proclaim.
God's own word is true and tested, nothing can its truth remove; source
of goodness, fount of justice, earth is salted with God's love.***

(verse 2)

***By command God made the heavens, shaped and filled it by a word; seas
and clouds were brought together, stored and gathered by the Lord. Let
the world revere its Maker, worship God, forever good; by God's will
earth was created: God decreed and there it stood.***

(verse 3)

***God frustrates the plans of nations, upsets great designs and dreams;
but his purpose stands forever, indestructible God's schemes. Heav'n
looks down on ev'ry mortal, all that lives on earth is known; happy
therefore are the people whom God chooses for his own.***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Believe the good news. The mercy and forgiveness we have already received enables us to be honest about the places in our lives in need of transformation. Let us confess our sin together:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have gotten comfortable in our categories: haves and have-nots, makers and takers, bigots and bystanders, self-starters and subordinates, law-abiders and illegals, the perpetrators and the innocent. We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Show us your mercy and let us hear your good news again. Amen.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation.
Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation.
Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #695

Change My Heart, O God Change My Heart
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart,
O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Like the light of the star God sent to guide seekers and sages, the splendor of God's light dawns on us in a peace that surpasses understanding. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who creates us and calls to us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to hear your Word, and embolden us to respond faithfully as we seek to follow Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 107:1-9*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; ⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING*Mark 2:13-17*

¹³ Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

SERMON*"Feasting"**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*Tranquil Invocation**Franklin Ritter***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE LORD'S PRAYER*****SENDING SONG #766***The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound**MC Kee**(verse 1)*

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

(verse 2)

True faith will open up the door and step into the street. True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

(verse 3)

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied. True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

(verse 4)

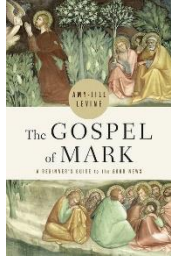
If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need, then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

Text by Adam M. L. Tice / Text ©GIA Publications, Inc. / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956***CHARGE AND BLESSING*****BENEDICTION***Amen**Traditional***POSTLUDE***Grand Triumphal March**Alexandre Guilmant*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Six Session Bible Study

***The Gospel of Mark* A Beginner's Guide to the Good News By Amy-Jill Levine**



During worship for the first two months of the New Year, we will be looking at passages from the Gospel of Mark; widely regarded as the oldest of the four gospels. Through her book and accompanying video lessons, Jewish scholar, Amy Jill-Levine, brings the Good News of the gospel message alive as participants will come to see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

You are invited to attend either weekly 90-minute session based on your own availability. Books are available in the Narthex.

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will take place on Sunday, February 4, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for the purposes of acting on nominations, reporting the annual budget, and approving pastoral terms of call. The meeting agenda and pertinent information will be made available by Sunday, January 28.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, February 9, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, February 10, 2024 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

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

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Anything for making chili: Ground meat, seasonings, crackers, shredded cheese, sour cream, onions, garlic, green peppers, kidney beans, diced tomatoes, or anything you would like to donate.

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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Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeters: Mark Fagerholm