

January 28, 2024
4th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Piece in E Minor
You Call Us Lord

Cesar Franck
George Lachenauer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #452

Open the Eyes of My Heart
(refrain)

Open the Eyes

***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you.***

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord with heart, mind, and strength.

All: We come to learn of God's wisdom and righteousness.

One: Let us worship God with all that we are.

All: That we might live in God's mercy and grace.

***OPENING SONG #667** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*
(verse 1)

Laudes Domini

***When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus
Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may
Jesus Christ be praised!***

(verse 2)

***Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be
praised! Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus
Christ be praised!***

(verse 3)

***Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ
be praised! Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may
Jesus Christ be praised!***

(verse 4)

***Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be
praised! Be this the eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus
Christ be praised!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Believe the good news. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;
yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that
is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
together:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the good news of the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. Forgive us, Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #698

Take, O Take Me as I Am *Take Me as I Am*
**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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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 103:6-13*

⁶ The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

CHORAL ANTHEM

A River in Judea Marcus, Feldman, & Leavitt

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 2:18-22

18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" **19** Jesus said to them, "The wedding attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **20** The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

21 "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. **22** Similarly, no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

SERMON

"Fasting"

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

Andante Cantabile

Johann Krieger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SENDING SONG #175

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

(verse 1)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

(verse 2)

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

(verse 3)

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia!

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

Amen

Traditional

POSTLUDE

Ancient of Days!

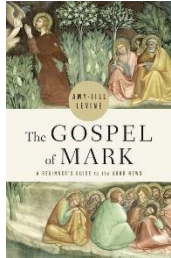
Paul Taylor

*Please stand as you are able.

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.

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 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 are available in the Narthex.



Flowers

The flowers today are given by the Gurd Family in loving memory of Alan Gurd and with thanks to their Church family and community.

Youth Group Meeting



Youth Group Meeting with Christ Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Feb. 4, 6-7:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

All members and friends grades 6-12 are invited.

Activities include:

- Giant Indoor Games (Jenga, Connect 4, etc.)
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Packing Care Items for Homeless Hookup CLE

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

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Mary & Craig Hatch