

February 18, 2024
1st Sunday in Lent

WELCOME

PRELUDES

A Morning Reverie
A Quiet Moment

Rex Koury
Tom Birchwood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #705

You Are Holy
(refrain)

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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25)

One: O God, in you we trust.

All: Lead us in your truth and teach us,

One: For you are the God of our salvation;

All: For you we wait, for you we worship.

***OPENING SONG (Known Unknowns)**

Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him
(verse 1)

Beach Spring

Jesus calls us here to meet him as through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence where his people live and care.

Praise the God who keeps his promise, praise the Son who calls us
friends, praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.
(verse 2)

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of life and Lord of all, sharer of our
flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy, human
story; tell his tales that all may hear; tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

(verse 3)

Jesus calls us to each other, though we may have wandered far: creed
and color, class and gender, neither limit nor debar. Join the hand of
friend and stranger, join the hands of age and youth, join the faithful
and the doubter in their common search for truth.

Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule / ©1998, 2005, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 55:1)

One: Are you hungry for grace? Do you thirst for mercy? God is calling; come to the waters. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of tradition, comfort, and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, and the stranger. Empty and renew us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 55:3)

One: Listen that you may live; the steadfast love of the Lord never fails. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #447** *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We Are Forgiven

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Lord, teach us to love and serve you faithfully and reconcile us to you and one another as members of one living body. People of God, may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word and minister to us with your Holy Spirit so that, in this Lenten season, we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalms 25:1-10*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Pie Jesu

Johnson

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Mark 7:1-8*

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, **2** they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. **3** (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, **4** and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) **5** So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” **6** He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; **7** in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ **8** “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

SERMON

Cleansing

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE (from scripture)

All: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

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

We Will Walk With God

Swaziland

Text Swaziland text; English trans. John L. Bell / ©2002 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #727**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant The Servant Song

(verse 1)

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

(verse 2)

We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

(verse 3)

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

(verse 4)

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.

By Richard Gillard / ©1977 Universal music – Brentwood Benson Publishing / CCL #11043756

*Please stand as you are able.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

Come With Us Lord

Cathey (Tallis Canon)

POSTLUDE

Joy, Joyful Joy

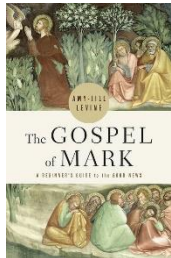
Robert W. Thygeron

*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. 22, 29

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 19, 26, March 4

CWS Blankets+



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

During February, Valley will be participating in Church World Service's Blankets+ Program. Contributions to Blankets+ means that CWS will be ready to help families here and around the world recover from disasters and displacement and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

By contributing, we can help show our caring and help "blanket the world with love". Please consider a generous gift to Blankets+. Envelopes will be available during February. Please make checks out to VPC with a Blankets+ notation. Thank you for your continued support as we try to reach out to others.

Mission

C•O•N•N•E•C•T

Community Game Night for all ages! Saturday, February 24

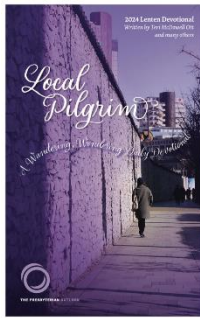
Bringing the outdoors in! Come play corn hole, giant Jenga, and Connect 4, as well as, all sorts of typical board games, or you're welcome to bring your own!

Pizza and salad at 5:30 p.m.! Games will begin at 6:00 p.m.!

We'll have snacks throughout the evening.

Drop in or let us know you're coming by using the link on the church website or in the February Valley Voice.

Local Pilgrim - Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets (Available in the Narthex)



This daily Lent devotional from the *Presbyterian Outlook* invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder, and reflect?

In the *Local Pilgrim*, *Outlook* Editor/Publisher, Teri McDowell Ott, and other writers explore what God might reveal to us if we intentionally explore our communities. Who do we see? What do we hear? God reveals God's self when we look.

Lent is the perfect season for a pilgrimage such as this, leading to meaningful contemplation and sacred discoveries. As you make your way through this devotional, you might find yourself inspired to go somewhere new; or somewhere familiar to pause, ponder, and pray. What will God unveil? Join us on your local pilgrimage to new and familiar places in your community.

Each daily reflection, beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday, will combine personal reflection, Scripture, and prayer. May God bless you and keep you on your Lenten journey.

Local Pilgrim Lenten Photo Journal Project

We want to know: what is God revealing to you during this season of Lent? Where have you been led to go, and what have you seen there?

Each Sunday in worship during the season of Lent, we will be sharing some of your *Local Pilgrim* photos during the time for offering. Please email your pictures (with permission from any individual that might be in the photograph) to johnawahl@yahoo.com; so that they can be compiled and shared with one another.

Together, let us explore and share what God is up to in our neighborhood!

Stations of the Cross / Stations of the Street

North Presbyterian Church

Friday, March 1 – 7 p.m.

Have dinner together at Buckeye Café at 5:30 p.m.

Carpool together from the church parking lot at 6:15 p.m.

Using art created by a group of homeless people to express Jesus' sufferings and death within the context of people on the street and other marginalized people; and written reflections of Jesus' sufferings 'then' and 'now.'

Please join the North Community in making this powerful experience a part of your Lenten discipline. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, March 8, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, March 9, 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:



Fresh meat, fruit, eggs, milk, bread, spaghetti sauce, pasta, SpaghettiOs, ravioli, macaroni & cheese, 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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Heidi Cregar, Director
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Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Judith Campbell

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeters: Gerry Chittock