

February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in Lent

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Lenten Meditation
Be Thou My Vision

Richard Blake
Dale Wood

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 Mark 8)

One: Let us sing and praise our God and Savior;

All: We will praise you, we will bear witness to our faith.

One: Let us set our mind not only on human things,

All: But on that which is divine; let us worship God.

***OPENING SONG #305** *Come Sing, O church, in Joy!* *Darwall's 148th*
(verse 1)

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song! For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

(verse 2)

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme, empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

(verse 3)

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Savior God, have mercy on us. Sometimes, doubt gets the best of us. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. The story of your good news ushers in justice and peace, yet we often keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses to your grace and love. Help us be your light, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.

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: 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 *Psalm 22:22-28*

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Think About His Love

Harrah & MacDonald

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. ¹⁶ He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, ¹⁸ and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid, and I asked your disciples to

*Please stand as you are able.

cast it out, but they could not do so.” ¹⁹ He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us!” ²³ Jesus said to him, “If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” ²⁶ After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. ²⁸ When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

SERMON

“Doubting”

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

God of Wonders (projected)

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*SENDING SONG

O Jesus, You Were Born to Be

Dr. Charles Burney

(verse 1)

O Jesus, you were born to be God's gift to save humanity; and one great day we're moving toward, all life will bow and call you Lord!

(verse 2)

You taught the people every day as Rabbi, Teacher of the Way; O Master, may we learn from you to love both God and neighbor, too.

(verse 3)

You are the Bread that satisfies, the Light that guides us through our lives, the Gate that leads us safely home, the Shepherd calling to your own.

(verse 6)

O Jesus, you're the living Way, the Resurrection, God's new Day. You give us hope and make us new; how wondrous is our life in you!

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*Please stand as you are able.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

Go With Us Lord

Cathay

POSTLUDE

Praise Ascending

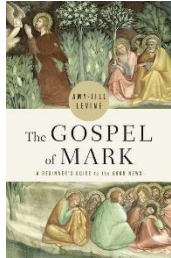
David Paxton

*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.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 29

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 26, March 4

CWS 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

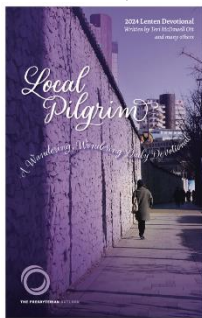
Bringing the outdoors in! Come play corn hole, giant Jenga, and Connect 4, as well as, all sorts of typical board games, or you're welcome to bring your own!

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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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Nancy Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeters: Beth Krause