

April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Praeludium und Fuga Johann Kaspar Fischer
Breathe on Me Breath of God Daniel Burton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #471 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* Hear My Prayer
(verse 1)

***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.***

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 23)

One: Our Good Shepherd has led us to this place.

All: He leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul.

One: Even though we walk through dark valleys, even though we are fearful
and in need of comfort,

**All: Our cup overflows with God's goodness and mercy; we shall dwell in
the house of the Lord our whole lives long.**

***OPENING SONG #308** *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Noel
(verse 1)

***O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit, bestow your
blessing on our lives; here let your love find root. Bring forth in us the
Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace; deliver us from numbing fear,
and grant our faith increase.***

(verse 2)

***Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts that we may
have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts. So let our varied
gifts combine to glorify your Name that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.***

(verse 3)

***Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care; so
bind us in community that we may risk and dare. Be with us when we
gather here to worship, sing, and pray; then send us forth in power and
faith to live the words we say.***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The joy of this Easter season continues as we are called to Word and worship.
Let us pause to confess our sins together:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean, and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #471

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer
(verse 2)*

Hear My Prayer

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.***

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*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (adapted from Philippians 3)

One: All that we seek to accomplish, all that we strive to achieve, all that we claim to possess – all this amounts to nothing without the grace of Christ. May his peace be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our helper, guide us into and through your Word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING (Responsive)

Psalm 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

One: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*Please stand as you are able.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Chariot's Comin!
(Swing Low, Sweet Chariot)
Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Besig & Price

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 4:1-12*

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ² much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³ So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who heard the word believed, and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹² "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

SERMON

"The Church: Practicing New Beginnings"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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

Verset

Leon Boellmann

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION (see last page)**PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #2121** *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life* *Puer Nobis Nascitur*
(verse 1)

O Holy Spirit, Root of life, Creator, cleanser of all things, anoint our wounds, awaken us with lustrous movement of your wings.

(verse 2)

Eternal Vigor, saving One, you free us by your living Word, becoming flesh to wear our pain, and all creation is restored.

(verse 3)

O holy wisdom, soaring power, encompass us with wings unfurled, and carry us, encircling all, above, below, and through the world.

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

***BENEDICTION** *Go Now in Peace* *Besig*

POSTLUDE *Fanfare and Statement on "Llanfair"* *Edward Broughton*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers today are given by Barbara Anderson in memory of Samuel K. Taylor and William Howard Anderson.

Knitting For Others



Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group. We will be knitting special items like prayer shawls, blankets, and other helpful and comforting items for our members and people in our community.

The group will meet (come when your schedule allows):

Tuesday, April 23 — 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24 — 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5 — 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14 — 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22 — 10:30 a.m. - noon

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



April is Movie Snack Pack Month - ingredients for s'mores; popcorn; chips; cookies; candy; etc. or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Focus on Health

“Improving Your Outlook on Mental Wellness”

Saturday, April 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

St. Mark's

22111 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood

\$10 in advance, \$12 at door

Make reservations by Monday, April 22nd at:
suzanpc@yahoo.com or 440-269-1465

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, May 17, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, May 18, 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.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Bernice Denham

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Gerry Chittock

Service of Installation

Today we install to the office of Elder: Jeanne DeLaney, Ruth Gurd, Bill Rossen; and to the office of Deacon: Lucy Rossen (all previously ordained).

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES (from I Corinthians 12)

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good. Together, we are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by the church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues? Will you in your own life seek to follow Jesus, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

(to Deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

(to Elders) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline and, in your ministry, try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

(to congregation) Do we, as members of the church, accept Jeanne, Ruth, Bill, and Lucy as Deacon and Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

DECLARATION FOR INSTALLATION