

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Prelude on Bradbury
Sarabande

Lani Smith
George Frederic Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #742 *We Will Walk with God* *Sizohamba Naye*
We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God. We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us and brought us into resurrection light.

All: We praise you that the risen Christ summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness.

One: By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair and set our feet in Christ's holy way;

All. That our lives may be signs of his life, and all we do may show forth his love.

***OPENING SONG #260**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
(verse 1)

Hyfrydol

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

(verse 2)

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

(verse 3)

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we confess our sins we are not doing so as lost, guilty, and ambiguous human beings who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our transgressions but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God's grace, how would we even know we are sinners? So we confess together:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, fearful, or lost. Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not in the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness and turmoil. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: You are already forgiven and beloved. In Christ, you are a fully flourishing human being; go live like it. In the Spirit, you are not an isolated spiritual being, doing Christianity alone, but you are part of a community of faith; go build that. By the grace of God, every human being is seen, loved, and made whole; go practice that.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #240**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

(verse 4)

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

(refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Give praise to his name.

By Donald Fishel / ©1973 International Liturgy Publications / CCL #11043756

***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

Holy Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us away from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING (Responsive)

Psalm 3

One: O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

All: Many are saying to me, "There is no help for you in God."

One: But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

All: I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill.

One: I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

All: I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

One: Rise up, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

All: Deliverance belongs to the Lord; may your blessing be on your people!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Daniel Carter

Performed by: Ron Cechner

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:3-14

³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SERMON

"The Church: Being Witnesses"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Study Catechism, Questions 43, 45, and 46)

One: What do you affirm when you say that he was "crucified, dead, and buried"?

All: That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

One: Why did Jesus have to suffer as he did?

All: Because grace is more abundant – and sin more serious – than we suppose. However cruelly we may treat one another, all sin is primarily against God. God condemns sin, yet never judges apart from grace. In giving Jesus Christ to die for us, God took the burden of our sin into God's own self to remove it once and for all. The cross in all its severity reveals an abyss of sin swallowed up by the suffering of divine love.

One: What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day he rose again from the dead'?

All: That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

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

Lied

David Paxton

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth by the power of your Spirit to share this good news with the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

***SENDING SONG #462**

I Love to Tell the Story
(verse 1)

Hankey

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do. I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

(verse 2)

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*Please stand as you are able.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hail, Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer!

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, April 9, 2024

This year's Bible study is:

Sacred Encounter: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ In the Gospel of Luke

**Meeting: VPC Library, The 2nd Tuesday of the month
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., September through May**

All women interested are welcome to join.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, April 12, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, April 13, 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.

Community Meal

***Tuesday, April 16
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.***



Community Meal

This month, we are doing another throwback meal with recipes contributed by some of our favorite folks, taken from the Charm O'The Barn Cookbook.

Menu: Baked Chicken Soufflé (Marge Davies), Mashed Potato Casserole (Peg Irish), Romaine and Strawberry Salad (Lin Wilson), Chocolate Chip Bars (Audrey Weatherhead)

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m.; and distributing / delivering from 4-5:30 p.m. In addition, if you would like to bake chocolate chip bars (your recipe of choice or obtain recipe from office) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on April 16th. See the April Valley Voice or website to sign up to volunteer or for the meal.

David Lamotte Events (from Presbytery)

To carpool to John Knox on Friday – meet at church at 6:15 p.m.

David will be offering a concert on Friday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at John Knox Presbyterian Church. On Saturday, April 14, he will be offering a workshop entitled "Worldchanging 101" at Rocky River Presbyterian Church from 9:00-11:30 a.m. This workshop will focus on the three prongs of the Matthew 25 Initiative that we are part of as a presbytery. See the April Valley Voice for more information and to register.

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 three different times each month in the Church Library; so folks can come when their schedule allows. Our first meeting will be the second Sunday of the month - April 14 at 12:15 p.m. after the 10:30 a.m. service. This will be an informational meeting and a time for folks to get started on their first project. If you can, please bring size 8 knitting needles with you.

Our monthly schedule will be:

2nd Sunday of the month — 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

3rd Tuesday of the month — 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

4th Wednesday of the month — 10:30 a.m. - noon

Please attend as often as you can. Look forward to having you be a part of this ministry.

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.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Beth Krause