

**May 12, 2024**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDES**

*Lord, Speak to Me*  
*Das Marienbild (Mother of God)*

*Edward Broughton*  
*Franz Schubert*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT #205**

*Live in Charity*

*Ubi Caritas (Taizé)*

***Live in charity and steadfast love. Live in charity; God will dwell with you.***

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**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come to join with all the earth in praise: to sing a new song to the Lord,

**All: Who has done marvelous things, who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

One: We praise the Lord with joyful noises joining the symphony of the earth:

**All: The roar of the ocean, the call of the birds, the wind across the hills, people in every corner of the globe.**

One: On this Sabbath day of rest and gladness,

**All: We greet you with joy, our living God!**

**\*OPENING SONG #14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
*(verse 1)*

*Dix*

***For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

*(verse 2)*

***For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

*(verse 3)*

***For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

*(verse 4)*

***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

There is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Therefore, let's confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us transform our lives:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of faith, hope, and love, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear good fruit. How can a faith like that transform the world with hope? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray.**

*(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 #693** *Though I May Speak*  
*(verse 3)*

*Gift of Love*

***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.***

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## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Peace be with you.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## WORD

## UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy Spirit, help us to hear familiar words with fresh ears, and to take your Holy Word to us seriously, as guide and pattern for our lives. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 98*

One: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**All: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

One: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

One: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**All: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

**All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy,**

One: At the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

**All: He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Alleluia*

*Coates*

*Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen*

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

*I Corinthians 13:1-13*

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

## SERMON

*"Faith, Hope, and Love"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

## 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

Prayer

John Andrews

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*SENDING SONG

*The Motherhood of God*

Converse

Inspired by the Mother-God theology of the 14th Century English Roman Catholic anchorite nun Julian of Norwich:

*(verse 1)*

***Motherhood, sublime, eternal, lives in God's great heart of Love;  
Ever holds us, safe enfolds us, underneath, around, above;  
Patient, tender, kind, forgiving, though in devious paths we roam;  
Gently chides us, ever guides us, and all-loving, leads us home.***

*(verse 2)*

***Ev'ry wrong will sure be righted; ev'ry evil swept away;  
Truth upspringing, justice bringing, ushers in the brighter day;  
Mother calls her earthly children, loves them, lifts them when they fall;  
Striving, calling, fainting, falling, Motherlove enfolds them all.***

*(verse 3)*

***God is love, and love forever in the Motherheart is blest;  
Lives the longest, lifts the strongest, far outreaching all the rest;  
Not by might, and not by wisdom comes our lifting from the sod:  
Love's pure glory tells the story in the Motherheart of God.***

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

### \*BENEDICTION

*Go Now in Peace*

*Besig*

### POSTLUDE

*Unto Thee I Lift My Eyes*

*Robert J. Powell*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sarah Circle – Tuesday, May 14, 2024

This year's final 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.

## 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, 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:



**May is Cleaning Supply Giveaway month – toilet bowl cleaner, sponges, scrub brushes, paper towels, Windex, Murphy's Oil Soap, Mr. Clean/Lysol, Pinesol, Comet, etc. or anything you would like to donate.**

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

## 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](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Faith Garden

We believe that it is a good thing to spend time in God's creation, and to be faithful stewards of the good gifts that God provides.

All the produce raised in the Valley Faith Garden is donated to the food pantry at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.

You are invited to come and spend time in and around the Faith Garden – weeding, planting, picking, or just sitting for a rest – at these times (from May – September):

First and third Tuesdays of each month – 6 - 7 p.m.

Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

## Graduate Recognition



On Sunday, May 19, we will be honoring graduates from high school, college, and other training or degree programs. If you would like a family member to be recognized in that Sunday's bulletin, please contact the church office with the information. Thank you.

## Church Work Days

**Saturday, May 18 / Sunday, May 19**

Our church building and grounds require many helping hands to keep it functional and beautiful. There will be tools and jobs available on Saturday, May 18 (9 a.m. to noon) and after church on Sunday, May 19 for those who would like to help. You can, also, pitch in a different time at your convenience. Please see Elder Jerry Moreno for project ideas.



### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)**

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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Liturgist: Ruth Gurd

Organist: John Kautzman  
Greeter: Lillian Smyser