

July 7, 2024
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
Let Us Break Bread Together

Emma Lou Diemer
Susanna Keeney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

***CHORAL INTROIT #452**

Open the Eyes of My Heart
(refrain)

Open the Eyes

***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you.***

(repeat refrain)
(verse 1)

***To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory. Pour
out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy." Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.***

(refrain)

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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In faith, Abraham and Sarah set out for a new land.

All: In faith, we seek to follow God in our lives.

One: In faith, the church seeks to discern the future to which God calls us in our age.

All: In faith, we gather now to worship, seeking new life in Christ. God of past, present, and future, guide us now to your new age of promise.

***OPENING SONG #645**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
(verse 1)

Mit Freuden Zart

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

(verse 3)

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 4)

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: The book of Hebrews reminds us of God's promise which says, "This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel, says our God: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their evil deeds, and I will remember their sin no more." Trusting in God's promises, let us confess our sins to almighty God. Let us pray:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You are a God who is everywhere present, and you work through people in every situation. We confess that we often overlook those at the edge of our vision, the ones pushed aside, used, discounted. Until, that is, they do something we don't like. Then we confess we see them clearly, or rather we see their moral failings clearly, while being unable to see our own. Forgive us for our judgmental ways, obscuring our vision of our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us for our part in a society of in-and-out, have-and-have-not, and for our unwillingness to challenge the systems that work for us. Forgive us for the ways we flatten people into caricatures and stereotypes, symbols of all that is good or bad, rather than allowing them to be fully human. Hold us to account when we dismiss our neighbors, and transform us into people who love as we have been loved instead. Amen.

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: Hear the good news! God's mercy is poured out like a mighty river; grace flows like a never-ending stream. Friends, believe the gospel, and give thanks!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #519**

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.

By Dennis L. Jernigan / ©1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (admin. PraiseCharts.com) / CCL #11043756

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Our peace comes from knowing how much God loves us in Jesus Christ. With God's help, we try to love and forgive one another as Christ loves and forgives us. Peace be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

*Please stand as you are able.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may, also, obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Thy Word

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Text by Amy Grant, 1984 / ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)/Word Music / CCL #11043756

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Joshua 2:1-16*

Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. ² The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." ³ Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land." ⁴ But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from.

⁵ And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them."

⁶ She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you.

¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

¹¹ As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. ¹² Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith ¹³ that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ The men said to her, "Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. ¹⁶ She said to them, "Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way."

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Performed by: Ron Cechner

Daniel Carter

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 2:17-24 & 6:22-25

2¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you ¹⁸ if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. ¹⁹ If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you.” ²¹ She said, “According to your words, so be it.” She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

²² They departed and went into the hill country and stayed there three days, until the pursuers returned. The pursuers had searched all along the way and found nothing. ²³ Then the two men came down again from the hill country. They crossed over, came to Joshua son of Nun, and told him all that had happened to them. ²⁴ They said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before us.”

6²² But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house, and bring the woman out of it and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” ²³ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her—they brought all her kindred out—and set them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴ They burned down the city and everything in it; only the silver and gold and the vessels of bronze and iron they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. ²⁵ But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family has lived in Israel ever since. For she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

SERMON

“Risking It All”

Rev. Eric Dillenbeck

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved; if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. 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

The River Garth Brooks & Victoria Shaw
Performed by: Ron Cechner

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING SONG #525 *Let Us Break Bread Together* *Let Us Break Bread*
(verse 1)

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

(verse 2)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

May this meal strengthen us in love so that we might go out into the world in joy to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*SENDING SONG #372

O for a World
(verse 1)

Azmon

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

(verse 2)

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

(verse 5)

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on St. Denio

Robert Graham

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Pastor Today – Rev. Eric Dillenbeck

Eric is a member of our Presbytery and active in youth ministry planning for the denomination. He currently works in validated ministry for Youth Opportunities Unlimited after having previously served on staff at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.



Flowers

The flowers today are given by Marilyn & Dave Rodenhausen in memory of loved ones.

Mid-week Lunch Group – Wednesday, July 10



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Wednesday of each month (July 10, August 14, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Chapel in the Woods – Sunday, July 14

It is always a pleasure to be able to worship amid the beautiful sights and sounds of God's creation in our outdoor chapel (weather permitting). Please dress comfortably.

Take-out Community Meal



Community Meal

Tuesday, July 16

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

This month, we will, again, be engaging in our community meal program: preparing dinners to be available for pick-up or delivery. These meals are our gift to the community: to anyone who is in need of an evening of not cooking or the love that goes into making the food.

Menu: Pork BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, macaroni salad, berry crisp

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 berry crisp (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on July 16th.

To sign up to volunteer or for the meal, see church website or July / August Valley Voice.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center in July for BBQ bundles that are being distributed at the end of July:



Ground meat, hot dogs, buns, mustard, ketchup, barbecue sauce, chips, charcoal, or anything you would like to donate.

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

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.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, July 19, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, July 20, 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.

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):

July

Sunday, July 21 — 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

August

Sunday, August 11 — 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Caring for God's Creation

Fridays: July 12, August 9
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (lunch included)

Cost is \$5 per child / \$10 per family per session
Children age 3 - entering 5th grade

God created an amazing world, and - as God's children - we have been called to care for it.

Join youth and adult volunteers from Valley as we learn about the mysteries and science of our natural world; and how we can participate in nurturing and healing the earth and all its creatures.

Activities will include music, movement, science lessons, working in the garden, service projects, and bible story time.

Register on the church website, through the June Valley Voice, or call the church office.

Faith & Love: Building Up Our Community with Fellowship, Meals, and Acts of Kindness

Coinciding with each of our **Caring for God's Creation** events for children is a meal for all ages featuring a speaker from the community who will share their expertise, along with a related activity. We would love for you to join us at our **Table Together Meals. Although it is not necessary, if you know you're coming, please sign up at the address below or via the newsletter, weekly email, church website:**

Sunday, July 14 - Table Together Lunch - after Chapel in the Woods

Nurture God's Loving Nature

Guest Speaker: Agricultural Farmer
Plant a small herb garden in a 2-liter soda bottle
RSVP: <https://forms.gle/RUdqXTpUN5hwhitAY6>

Friday, August 9 - Table Together Dinner - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

God's plan needs all of us

Guest Speaker: To be announced
Bloom where you are planted
RSVP: <https://forms.gle/bCahwwBNGWBe6BCG8>

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org
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Heidi Cregar, Director
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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Ruth Gurd

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Lillian Smyser