

**August 11, 2024**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Chapel in the Woods**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)**

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*                      *Naida Hearn,*  
*arr. by John F. Wilson*  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*                      *Timothy Shaw*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 118:24, 124:8)**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: Maker of heaven and earth.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Worshippers begin with hands clenched, arms crossed over the chest in an X.*

O God of mountain crevices and desert stretches, ground us this day in a sacred geography. As we gather in this place for this time, connect us to this land and its people and to each other.

*Worshippers face the east. The eastern hand is extended horizontally and opened.*

We turn to the east, where the sun rises, and pray for you to illuminate everything within us that remains captive to bigotry, fear, uncertainty, and hate – We reject this captivity, and beg for you to free us from it.

*Worshippers face the west. The western hand is extended horizontally and opened.*

We turn to the west, where the sun sets, and pray that you would wrap us in holy darkness, where you give us new names, or help us to reclaim the names of those who have gone before us.

*Hands come together at the chest, fingers interlaced in a gesture of prayer.*

Here may we be knit together into a people who practice justice, wholeness, and peace.

*Worshippers turn toward a neighbor; hands remain interlaced in prayer.*

We turn toward each other, looking at the faces of those near to us, and pray that you would teach us to see in our neighbor the fullness of human dignity, and to build up between us mutual support.

\*Please stand as you are able.

*Worshippers extend hands forward, palms up and open.*

We turn, together, toward the front of this space, toward the hard and holy work that you have set before us, and pray that you would enable us to walk side by side, with honesty, grace, and steadfast faithfulness. All this we pray to the one who renews us, sustains us, and calls us by name. Amen.

**\*OPENING SONG #2088**

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (sing twice)*

*Lift Your Name on High*

***Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.***

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**SILENT CALL TO CONFESSION**

*(Please take a moment of silence to prepare for the confession of sins:)*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat — to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet — the very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to be reconciled with all your children who have called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place — to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and to the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded, O God, with all creation and with the whole human family in this place.

*(Time of Silence)*

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON**

One: There is nowhere that we can run to escape God's love and compassion.

By the generous gift of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE #743**

*O God, You Are My God*

*Step by Step*

***O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.***

By David Strasser (Beaker) / ©1991 by BMG Songs, Inc. / CCL #11043756

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: As beloved children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus here, in this place. May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

## **WORD**

### **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Psalm 104:14-24*

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth <sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart. <sup>16</sup> The trees of the field are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. <sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. <sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney. <sup>19</sup> You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. <sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. <sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. <sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. <sup>23</sup> People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening. <sup>24</sup> O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Can the Circle Be Unbroken*

*Text & Music by A.P. Carter*

*Please join in at the end for the chorus:*

*(sing three times)*

***Can the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by?  
There's a better home a waiting in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

*Performed by: Praise Band*

### **SERMON**

*"Creation Care - Humans and Animals"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## **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**

*Morecambe*

*Timothy Shaw*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*SENDING SONG #80**      *You Shall Go Out with Joy*      *The Trees of the Field*  
(sing three times, each time a little faster)

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap,  
will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap  
their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees  
of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.***

By Steffi Geiser Rubin and Stuart Dauermann / ©1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. (admin. Music Services) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**                      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*                      *Franklin Ritter*

Liturgy adapted from the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Worship Services.

This morning's Special Music and assistance with the hymn singing is provided by VPC's Praise Band:

Tanya Fouts, Vocals  
Chris Louis, Guitar  
Jim Obman, Guitar  
Mike Pauley, Percussion

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CFPCC Food Bank Needs**

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



**Paper towels, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, grits, kielbasa, chicken, canned fruit, 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.

## 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):

### **August**

Sunday, August 11 — 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Valley knitters is, also, accepting donations. If you have any yarn or needles that you would like to pass on, please let one of the leaders know.

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

Beverly Wahl  
502-553-7255

Bev Keough  
330-888-5385

## Mid-week Lunch Group – August 14



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 (August 14, September 11, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, August 16, 2024** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

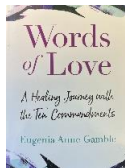
**Saturday, August 17, 2024** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Sarah Circle

**Wednesday, August 28, 11:45 a.m.**

The Study for 2024-25 is: *"Words of Love"*  
A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments



**Study books will be distributed at: The Buckeye Café in their private room.**

Each member may purchase lunch, if they choose, and pick up their book at that time.

### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan  
Liturgist: Bernice Denham

Organist: John Kautzman  
Greeter: Heidi Cregar