

August 18, 2024
13th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

The Shores of Galilee
O How I Love Jesus

Edward Broughton
Robert W. Thygerson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me
(verse 1)

Kelvingrove

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

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CALL TO WORSHIP (from Romans 5:1-5)

One: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

One: We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

All: And not only that, but we, also, boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,

One: And endurance produces character,

All: And character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame,

One: Because God’s love has been poured into our hearts,

All: Through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

One: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

All: Thanks be to God.

***OPENING SONG #726** *Will You Come and Follow Me*
(verse 2)

Kelvingrove

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

(verse 3)

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

(verse 4)

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.”

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CALL TO CONFESSION

From the dust, O God, we cry out to you...Why am I forgotten? Why am I forsaken? Why are you so far away? In our hunger and thirst, O God, we cry out to you...When will justice come? When will peace come? How long? Together, let us pray for God’s forgiveness of our sins:

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Psalm 51)

One: O Lord, open my lips,

All: And my mouth will declare your praise.

One: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart.

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

All: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

All: And sustain in me a willing spirit.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON

One: God of broken bread and bridged divides, open us that we might hear your word, do your will, liberate to be your people, through the power of your Holy Spirit. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

(verse 5)

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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***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.

*Please stand as you are able.

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.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Leviticus 26:3-4, 14-22

³ “If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, ⁴ I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

¹⁴ “But if you will not obey me and do not observe all these commandments, ¹⁵ if you spurn my statutes and abhor my ordinances, so that you will not observe all my commandments and you break my covenant, ¹⁶ I in turn will do this to you: I will bring terror on you, consumption and fever that waste the eyes and cause life to pine away. You shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down by your enemies; your foes shall rule over you, and you shall flee though no one pursues you. ¹⁸ And if in spite of this you will not obey me, I will continue to punish you sevenfold for your sins. ¹⁹ I will break your proud glory, and I will make your sky like iron and your earth like copper. ²⁰ Your strength shall be spent to no purpose: your land shall not yield its produce, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

²¹ “If you continue hostile to me and will not obey me, I will continue to plague you sevenfold for your sins. ²² I will let loose wild animals against you, and they shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock; they shall make you few in number, and your roads shall be deserted.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Above All Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloché
Performed by: Marilyn Rodenhausen*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side. ³ Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, “Mortal, have you seen this?” Then he led me back along the bank of the river. ⁷ As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸ He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become

fresh. ⁹ Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. ¹⁰ People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-ge-di to En-eg-laim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. ¹¹ But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. ¹² On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”

SERMON

“Creation Care – Devastation and Renewal”

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

Sketch

*Robert Schumann,
arr. by Steven Scott*

IMAGES AND REFLECTIONS FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #53**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life
(verse 1)*

Noel

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb, who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb: deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you. Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

(verse 2)

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare, to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there: when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies, refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

(verse 3)

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame, your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name. Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove, as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Tom Birchwood

Liturgy adapted from the 226th General Assembly Worship Services.

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

Tuesday, August 20 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8 — 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any worsted size-4 or bulky size-5 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked “yarn” in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

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

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

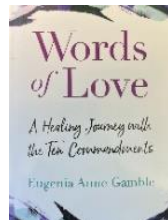
Bev Keough
330-888-5385

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.

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.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lois Urban

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Beverly Wahl