

August 4, 2024
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
Communion Improvisation

Gilbert M. Martin
Eugene Englert

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 61:1-3)**

One: The Spirit of God is upon us,

All: Because God has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor.

One: God has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted,

All: To proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners;

One: To proclaim the year of God's favor,

All: And the day of action of our God;

One: To comfort all who mourn,

All: And provide for those who grieve;

One: To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

All: The oil of joy instead of mourning,

One: And a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

All: Let us raise our voices and worship God.

***OPENING SONG #772**

Live into Hope
(verse 1)

Truro

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed. The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

(verse 2)

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

(verse 3)

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

(verse 4)

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that we have failed to do your will. You have shown us what is good, but we remain enthralled by evil. You have offered us abundance, but we are satisfied with wealth. Forgive us, God of grace. By the power of your Word take away all that is false and open our hearts to new life. Come, Holy Spirit! Rain upon our dry and dusty lives. Wash away our sin and heal our wounded spirits. Kindle within us the fire of your love to burn away our apathy. With your warmth bend our rigidity, and guide our wandering feet; through Christ our Lord we pray.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #399** *God Welcomes All*
(sing three times)

Themba Amen

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.***

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*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Assured of God's mercy, we may be bold in sharing Christ's peace — a peace built on justice, a peace that preserves diversity — with all we meet. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, in Jesus Christ your Word has come to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. Now anoint us with your Spirit, that our lives may proclaim the good news of your liberating love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 49:8-13

One: Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you;

All: I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages;

One: Saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves."

All: They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;

One: They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,

All: For he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

All: Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.

One: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!

All: For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Great Thou Art *Traditional*
Performed by: Payton Timmons *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 65*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed, ² O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. ³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. ⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. ⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. ⁶ By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. ⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. ⁸ Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. ⁹ You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. ¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. ¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

SERMON

"Creation Care - Humans and Water" 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

Meditation on "Tis So Sweet"

Mark Davis

REFLECTIONS AND IMAGES FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SONG OF PREPARATION #544

Bless the Lord
(sing two times)

Bless the Lord (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world — because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #774** *There Is Now a New Creation* *Stuttgart*
(verse 1)

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ, peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

(verse 2)

Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone: now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.

(verse 3)

Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child. All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.

(verse 4)

Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast; Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.

(verse 5)

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ. Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

A Testimony of Faith

Franklin Ritter

Liturgy adapted from the 226th General Assembly Worship Services.

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers today are given by Janet & Larry Graham in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Chapel in the Woods

Next Sunday, August 11, 2024, we will worship amid the beautiful sights and sounds of God's creation in our outdoor chapel (weather permitting). Please dress comfortably.

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.

Caring for God's Creation

Friday, 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 July/August 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:**

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

God's plan needs all of us

Guest Speaker: Amy & Bill Belew

Bloom where you are planted

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/bCahwwBNGWBe6BCG8>

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.

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.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Gerry Chittock