

September 15, 2024
17th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

I Seek to Know No Other Love
Song of Peace

James Southbridge
Michael Shea

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 19 & Wisdom of Solomon 7.26-8.1)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, knowing the streets are full of God's glory!

One: The sky proclaims God's handiwork.

All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, worshiping in the sanctuary of creation!

One: The ways of the Holy One make wise the simple.

All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, sharing in the oneness of love.

***OPENING SONG #174**

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Madeleine

(verse 1)

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new. Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.

Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

(verse 2)

Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace. Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace. When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

(verse 3)

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Let us trust God's mercy and grace as, together, we boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You call to us, Holy God, from city streets and town gates and sanctuaries, but we refuse to listen. You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such trusting relationship is possible. Preoccupied with ourselves, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other. Forgive us, Lord, when we ignore your invitation to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call of wisdom so we may live as fools for Christ's sake.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven. Having been forgiven, we embrace God's mercy as we journey toward wholeness and peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #137** *He Came Down* *He Came Down*
 (verse 3)

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

*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

Speak to us, Living Spirit, so that we may focus on your Word. Pour out your Wisdom upon us so we may respond by taking up our cross and following you. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19:1-4, 7-10

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

All: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

All: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

All: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

*Please stand as you are able.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Chariot's A Comin'
(Swing Low Sweet Chariot)*

Besig

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:14-18

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith.

SERMON

"Faith and Works"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

WITNESS

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

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

Trio: Pastorale

Robert J. Powell

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #302**

*When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace O Waly Waly
(verse 1)*

***When hands reach out and fingers trace the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
(verse 2)***

***When fingers spell and signs express our prayer and praise and
thankfulness, we thank you, God, that hands can sing; you bless the
silent songs we bring.
(verse 3)***

***When broken bodies will not mend, we thank you, God, for Christ our
friend. In him, our healing can begin: he welcomes all the wounded in.
(verse 4)***

***And when the ways we learn and grow are not the ways that others
know, we thank you, God, that we have learned your love's a gift, and
never earned.
(verse 5)***

***Your Spirit gives us differing ways to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be your able, strong community***

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*Please stand as you are able.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

Father I Adore You

Coelho

POSTLUDE

To Greet the Morning

David Paxton

*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:

First and third Tuesdays of September — 6 – 7 p.m.
Second and fourth Wednesdays of September — 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Spaghetti sauce, pasta, SpaghettiOs, macaroni & cheese, chicken, ground beef, eggs, milk, bread, peanut butter, jelly, lunch meat, snacks, any lunch item, or anything you would like to donate.

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

Adult Choir Rehearsals



Valley's first Adult Choir Rehearsal was on **Thursday, September 12th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**. Today is our first Sunday back with the congregation. Music is available for you to pick up on the table located behind the privacy rail on the left side of the church. (Where we were storing the drums and keyboard, etc.)

The Choir always needs new members so consider this your invitation to join a group of dedicated musicians who sing together, pray together, and praise the Lord together. Valley is blessed to have so much talent so make this your year to “SING A SONG, SING IT LOUD, AND SING IT STRONG!”



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):

Sunday, September 22 — 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 13 — 12:00 – 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

David Lamotte Video and Discussion

Sunday, September 22

Author, musician, and activist, David Lamotte – who, last spring, was in our area for a concert and workshop on his book *You Are Changing the World: Whether You Like It or Not* – recently had an 18-minute talk released on TEDx entitled “Why Heroes Don’t Change the World” and it now has over 50,000 views.

David is an inspiring speaker whose message fits with our September themes of seeking justice and practicing our faith. On Sunday, September 22, we invite you to gather in Fellowship Hall at noon to view his TEDx talk together and engage in a discussion following. We hope you can join us.

Invitation for New Members to Join

Sunday, September 29



Those interested in becoming members of the church are invited to gather in the church library at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, to meet with Elders, and, then, be formally received during worship that day.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Sue Doughman