

# November 10, 2024

## Coming Together: Love

### WELCOME

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

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
Love One Another*

*Eugene Englert  
Robert J. Powell*

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

#### **COMING TOGETHER**

#### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Christ Has Broken Down the Walls  
(verse 1)*

***Christ has broken down the wall, Christ has broken down the wall.  
Let us join our hearts as one, Christ has broken down the wall.***

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#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of Peace, we know you are near, we know you have never left our side, and we know you will always be with us. Calm and enlarge our heart-capacity, and invite us to “do unto others” in ways that build up your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the mercy of God who heals, and in the name of Jesus that holds, and in the power of the Spirit that transforms. **Amen.**

#### **\*OPENING SONG (projected)**

*Come As You Are – The Many  
(verse 1)*

*Come you who've been wounded, all you who've lost hope  
Come you who are longing for what you don't even know  
Come you hungry for justice, aching for heaven on earth  
Come you who've been tossed aside, don't remember what you're worth.  
(refrain)*

***Come as you are, come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are, bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars, come as you are.  
(verse 2)***

*Come you who have been cast out, all you who've been shamed  
Come you who are looking for that mystery you can't name  
Come you crying for mercy, hoping for peace on earth  
Come you carrying questions, all you who've been so hurt.  
(refrain)*

***Come as you are, come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are, bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars, come as you are.***

\*Please stand as you are able.

*(verse 3)*

*Come you misfits and prophets, and you sinners and saints  
Oh you broken and needy, weird and weary and faint  
All who seek to simply open their eyes  
All who need to find a safe place to cry.*

*(refrain)*

***Come as you are, come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are, bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars, come as you are.***

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### **CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Nehemiah 9:17)**

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us turn to God in honesty and humility, ready to confess our sins:

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, forgive not just our individual shortcomings, but, also, our systemic sins; the ways we support and collaborate with oppression. Open our eyes to the injustice of wealth inequality, nativism, and climate harm. Open our hearts to righting current and historic societal wrongs. Forgive our excuses, our apathy, and our votes cast only for our – or our nation’s – benefit. Help us follow Christ’s favoring of the poor and vulnerable, working to build your beloved community where all belong, and all may flourish.**

*(Time of Silence)*

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON (based on Psalm 34:22)**

One: “The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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

### **SONG OF RESPONSE**

*Christ Has Broken Down the Walls*

*(verse 2)*

***We’re accepted as we are, we’re accepted as we are.  
Through God’s love all is reconciled; we’re accepted as we are.***

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### **PEACE ACROSS THE DIVIDE (projected)**

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

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*Please stand as you are able.

## WORD

### UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (adapted from Psalm 19:14)

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

#### Psalm 146 (*Common English Bible*)

One: Praise the LORD! Let my whole being praise the LORD!

**All: I will praise the LORD with all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.**

One: Don't trust leaders; don't trust any human beings – there's no saving help with them!

**All: Their breath leaves them, then they go back to the ground. On that very same day, their plans die too.**

One: The person whose help is the God of Jacob – the person whose hope rests on the LORD their God – is truly happy!

**All: God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, God: who is faithful forever,**

One: Who gives justice to people who are oppressed, who gives bread to people who are starving! The LORD: who frees prisoners.

**All: The LORD: who makes the blind see. The LORD: who straightens up those who are bent low. The LORD: who loves the righteous.**

One: The LORD: who protects immigrants, who helps orphans and widows, but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

**All: The LORD will rule forever! Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next! Praise the LORD!**

### CHORAL ANTHEM *The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want*

*Hopson*

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

#### *Matthew 22:34-40*

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup> He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

### SERMON

*"Love"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

### SONG OF COMMITMENT

*Christ Has Broken Down the Walls*  
*(verse 3)*

***Cast aside your doubts and fears, cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Peace and love, freely offered here; cast aside your doubts and fears.***

(verse 4)

**We will tear down the walls! We will tear down every wall! God has called us, one and all; Christ has broken down the wall.**

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## **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**

*Love of the Father*

*David Paxton*

### **PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

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

### **\*SENDING SONG #693**

*Though I May Speak*

*Gift of Love*

(verse 1)

***Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.***

(verse 2)

***Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.***

(verse 3)

***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.***

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### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Prelude on "O Perfect Love"*

*Gilbert M. Martin*

Adapted liturgy used with permission by Marcia McFee,  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness)

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### **Flowers**

The flowers this morning are dedicated by Bev Keough in celebration of family birthdays.

### **Lunch and Table Conversations**

**Sunday, November 17  
Noon–1:30 p.m.  
Bainbridge Social Hall**

## 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 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** (come when your schedule allows):

**Sunday, November 10**

**Sunday, November 24**

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.

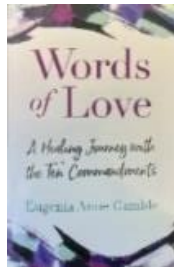
For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl  
502-553-7255

Bev Keough  
330-888-5385

## Sarah Circle – Tuesday, November 12

Sarah Circle 2024-2025 meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 10:30 a.m. in the church library.



**This year's study is:**  
***"Words of Love" by Eugenia Gamble***

All are welcome for membership or just a visit.  
Contact Glenna Pool with any questions.

## Mid-week Lunch Group – November 13



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 (November 13, December 11, January 8, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

## CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



**Cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned turkey gravy, Stove Top stuffing mix, cooking oil, mayonnaise, butter, celery, white potatoes, onions, eggs, sweet relish, TURKEY, green beans, corn, corned bread mix, broth, cream mushroom, elbow macaroni, pie, or anything you would like to donate.**

### **CFPCC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2024**

**November 15**

Thanksgiving food deadline

**November 22**

Thanksgiving food pick up for families

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

## Take-out Community Meal



Community Meal

**Tuesday, November 19**

**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: Glazed Chicken, Roasted Winter Vegetables, Green Beans, Cornbread, Assorted Pies**

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 a pie (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on November 19th.

To sign up to volunteer or for the meal, see the weekly e-mail, church website, or November Valley Voice.

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, November 22, 2024** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, November 23, 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).

## **Thank You!!**

To the wonderful folks at Valley, thank you so much for the kindness you have shown me in these months I've been away; in your notes to me, your texts, your phone calls. It means a lot to me, and reminds me that you care for me. Thank you. And to the Knitters in our midst, your loving hands have created a warm wrap that I wind around myself every evening. It's so lovely, and I thank you for it. I, also, appreciate your prayers! Valley is a wonderful church!

Love, Pat Nichols

*Thank  
You*

### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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