

February 2, 2025
4th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

*Christ, the Bread
Just As I Am*

*James Southbridge
Harold Rutz*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #507 *Come to the Table of Grace* *Table of Grace*
(verse 3)

***Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love. This is God's table;
it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.***

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on I Corinthians 13)

One: Love is patient.

All: Love is kind.

One: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

All: Love does not insist on its own way.

One: Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

**All: Love rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.**

One: Love never ends.

All: Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

***OPENING SONG (Known Unknowns)**

Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him *Beach Spring*
(verse 1)

***Jesus calls us here to meet him as through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence where his people live and care.***

***Praise the God who keeps his promise, praise the Son who calls us
friends, praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.***
(verse 2)

***Jesus calls us to confess him Word of life and Lord of all, sharer of our
flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy, human
story; tell his tales that all may hear; tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.***
(verse 3)

***Jesus calls us to each other, though we may have wandered far: creed
and color, class and gender, neither limit nor debar. Join the hand of
friend and stranger, join the hands of age and youth, join the faithful
and the doubter in their common search for truth.***

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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Psalm 71:1-6)

One: The Lord is our hope and our trust, our refuge and our fortress. With confidence born out of faith in God's power to save and deliver us, let us confess our sin:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We fear that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent, even as your Spirit prods us. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as it emerges in the dark places of our lives. We seek refuge in temporary pleasures, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty. Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to show your grace to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #507**

*Come to the Table of Grace
(verse 1)*

Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all days, may your Spirit emerge through our hearts to assess these readings. In hearing these words, regardless of the accuracy of our interpretation, may we be transformed by your loving presence and reminded that we are your people. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 71:1-6, 22

One: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

All: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

All: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

One: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

All: From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

One: I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;

All: I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Embrace the Day

Choplin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 4:22-30*

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

"In His Hometown"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Version)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and share God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other...

The institutions of the people of God change and vary as their mission requires in different times and places. The unity of the church is compatible with a wide variety of forms, but it is hidden and distorted when variant forms are allowed to harden into sectarian divisions, exclusive denominations, and rival factions...

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited process with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

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

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Ann Slowins

CALL TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

All: And, also, with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: Thanks and praise for the beginning...Thanks and praise for your Son

ALL SING #552

Holy, Holy, Holy

Land of Rest

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: Thanks and praise for Immanuel...our thankful praise

ALL SING #553

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Land of Rest

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Holy Spirit, enter like wind over water...until you come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL SING #554

Amen

Land of Rest

Amen, amen, amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world and strengthen us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG #506**

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!
(verse 1)

Copeland

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

(verse 2)

Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear, saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight; Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.

(verse 4)

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and breaks it—truth and manna from above!—and then passes wine that awakens in your heart the taste of love.

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***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Praise the Name of Jesus

R. Hicks, Jr.

POSTLUDE

Sun of My Soul

Edward Broughton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting – Today, February 2

Session has called an Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation for today, February 2, at noon in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of nominations, receiving the annual budget, approving terms of call, and making a change to the by-laws.

Feeding our Neighbors

From community meals to the Faith Garden, food ministry is an important part of our mission at Valley – we believe in the power of food to provide nourishment, caring, and hope.

Two of our mission partners – Geauga Faith Rescue Mission and Next Step, both located in Chardon – provide shelter and assistance to people in our community in need. Both offer their residents a place to stay, but, also, a community in which they can heal, learn, and grow.

Monday, February 3

3:00 p.m. – meal preparation in the Church kitchen

5:00 p.m. – depart for meal delivery

Individuals, groups, or families (up to five people) are welcome to sign up. Please contact Pastor John, if you have any questions.

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 Sundays, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

(come when your schedule allows):

February 9

February 23

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

North Church Partnership - Sunday, February 9

Valley has enjoyed a long-standing mission partnership with North Church, a gathering of predominantly homeless or housing insecure members. This year, we will worship and share meals (along with members of Christ Presbyterian Church in Chesterland) on four different Sundays throughout the year. The first Sunday is Sunday, Feb. 9. Please consider volunteering to help:

Meal Preparation

Saturday, Feb. 8 in the Church kitchen, 1-2:30 p.m.

Meal Delivery, Worship, and Serving

Sunday, Feb. 9 meet at Church to depart at 10 a.m., return by 1:30 p.m.

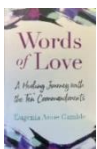
Mid-week Lunch Group – February 11



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (February 11, March 11, April 8, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, February 11

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.

College / Military Care Packages



The Deacons are gathering contributions to send gift cards to our college / military students over the next few weeks. If you have a loved one you would like included, please share their name and address with the office or Brenda Wahl.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center for their pizza / brownies event at the end of February:



Pepperoni, pizza sauce, shredded mozzarella, pizza crusts or mix, any ingredient for pizza, brownie mix, or anything you would like to donate.

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

2025 Year-long Bible Study

Every Day for Everyone

365 Devotions from Genesis to Revelation

This collection of reflections encompasses the entirety of the Bible - taking you on a journey from the beginnings of creation and humanity's journey with God in Genesis through the history of Israel to the life of Jesus and the birth of the church in the New Testament.

Each daily devotion includes:

- Scripture reference (usually not more than one chapter);
- A one-page, thoughtful commentary on that day's passage;
- A prayer echoing the Scripture and reflection from that day.

Join Pastor John on a 2025 journey through the Bible; group times for discussion will be planned throughout the year. Books are available through the church office for \$17.

Every Day for Everyone – Daily Bible Study discussion

Those participating in the Every Day for Everyone Daily Bible Study (and anyone else interested) are invited to gather for questions and discussion.

Group Discussion Times

Monday, February 10

7-8 p.m. in the Church Library

Sunday, February 23

4-5 p.m. in Church Library

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, February 21 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, February 22 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Community Meal



Community Meal

Tuesday, February 18

Valentine's Day may have just passed, but we still want to give you a sweet gift!

The community-wide dinner is offered at no charge for anyone who is hungry, who is feeling stretched, or who might need to be reminded that they are loved.

Menu: Chicken fettuccine alfredo, garlic bread, salad, and red-velvet cupcakes

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 red-velvet cupcakes (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on February 18th.

Sign up to volunteer or for the meal on the Church website, via the February Valley Voice or the weekly e-mail, or contact the Church office.

Notes from the Kitchen

We are so grateful for everyone's generosity in supporting Fellowship! Thanks to your kindness, we are well stocked with serving products. However, we always welcome donations of baked goods! If you leave anything in the kitchen or refrigerator, please label it clearly. With many groups using this space each week, it can be difficult to identify which items belong to whom.

In an effort to be more eco-friendly, we are no longer using styrofoam products. Thank you for helping us make the kitchen a more sustainable space!

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Lucy Rossen