

January 19, 2025
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Elegy

Paul Randall Keith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #701

Lord, Prepare Me

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (I Corinthians 12:1-4, The Message)

One: God's various gifts are handed out everywhere,

All: But they all originate in God's Spirit.

One: God's various ministries are carried out everywhere,

All: But they all originate in God's Spirit.

One: God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere,

All: But God is behind it all.

One: Each person is given something to do that shows who God is.

All: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

One: All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

All: The variety is wonderful.

***OPENING SONG #303**

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

Hyfrydol

(verse 1)

***God the Spirit, guide and guardian, windsped flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love: give
to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace; send them
forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.***

(verse 2)

***Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride: in your
tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care; grant them
courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.***

(verse 3)

***Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall, fount of
wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all: as you know our
strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts oversee its life
steadfastly, yet not overlook its faults.***

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 4)

Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse, deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse: help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim, that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins and present ourselves honestly before our Savior:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses when called to share. We hold on to old injuries and grievances, failing to grab onto what has been healed and renewed. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, but we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. Amen.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Believe in this forgiveness, be at peace, and respond in grateful service.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #710** *We Lift Our Voices*
(refrain)

Offering

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: May mercy, peace, 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

Holy God, we need the guidance of your Word. Help us be honest with ourselves and with you in this sacred moment of proclamation. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 36:5-10

One: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

One: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

CHORAL ANTHEM *Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*
Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Miller

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 4:1-13 (*The Message*)

¹⁻² Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry.

³ The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.”

⁵⁻⁷ For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.”

⁸ Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

⁹⁻¹¹ For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone?’”

¹² “Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’”

¹³ That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

SERMON

More Than Bread

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Inspired by Rev. Martin Luther King’s sermon, “Loving Your Enemies”*)

One: How do you go about loving your enemies? We desire to love our enemies and love those persons that hate us whether in collective life or individual life by looking at ourselves.

All: Love is the only way.

One: We seek to discover the element of good in all people, acknowledging the image of God in everyone.

All: Love is the only way.

One: We wish to end the chain of hate and evil and replace it with the strong and powerful element of divine love.

All: Love is the only way.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: We ask for hearts free of the distortions of hatred: "For the person who hates, the beautiful becomes ugly and the ugly becomes beautiful. For the person who hates, the good becomes bad and the bad becomes good. For the person who hates, the true becomes false and the false becomes true. That's what hate does. You can't see right. The symbol of objectivity is lost. Hate destroys the very structure of the personality of the hater."

All: Love is the only way.

One: We aspire to live and serve with love's redemptive power. May we be instruments of your power through love.

All: 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

Andante in G Minor Edmund Horace Fellowes

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CLOSING SONG #694** *Great God of Every Blessing* Aurelia
(verse 1)

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.
(verse 2)

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace, in death and life extending your covenant embrace. In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.
(verse 3)

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search, transforming broken people into the holy church. For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

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***BENEDICTION** *Shall We Know Him When He Comes* Wagner

POSTLUDE *The Festive Trumpet* Brian Glyncannon

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 2

Session has called an Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation for Sunday, February 2, immediately following worship 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.

On the first and third Mondays of each month, starting in January, Valley will be preparing meals for the residents of these two organizations. After the food is ready, we will deliver first to Next Step and then to the Rescue Mission, with the option of staying to eat and share fellowship and a bible study with the residents.

Monday, January 20:

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 to join Pastor John for either shift. Please contact Pastor John, if you have any questions.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, January 24, 2025 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, January 25, 2025 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

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

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.:

Sunday, January 26

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

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Pancake mix, syrup, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, bread, 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

Everyday 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 1 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 will be available through the church office for \$17, a free preview – including the reading schedule and first month of devotions – can be downloaded at:

https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/FilesSamples/250756EveryDayf_00000164509.pdf

See the weekly e-mail and January newsletter for the link above.

Confirmation Class



Confirmation provides young people with an opportunity to discover their identities as children of God; to explore the Spirit's gifts of wisdom and understanding; and to become members of the priesthood of all believers, commissioned for engagement in the church and the world.

In January, we will be starting a confirmation class for current 7th- and 8th-grade students. They will be asked to attend classes, to meet with adult mentors, to engage in scripture reading, and to participate in mission / learning activities (with young people from Bainbridge UCC). They will be given the opportunity to join the church in May, 2025. Please contact Pastor John, if you have any questions.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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