

January 26, 2025
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Come, O Spirit Robert J. Powell
Fantasy on "Dwell In Me, O Blessed Spirit" Iteke Prins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #283 *Come, O Holy Spirit, Come* Wa Emimimo
Come, O Holy Spirit, come; Come, almighty Spirit, come;
Come, come, come.

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RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

All: Releasing those who are captive, giving sight to the blind, helping the oppressed, and declaring the year of the Lord's favor!

One: May we go and do likewise, offering hope to a hurting world.

All: And may it all begin with our worship of God.

***OPENING SONG #726** *Will You Come and Follow Me* Kelvingrove
(verse 1)

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

(verse 2)

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

(verse 3)

"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

(verse 4)

"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

(verse 5)

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Confession allows us to unburden ourselves – of what we have done and what we have left undone – and lay before God our brokenness and regrets. Let us pray, knowing that God is merciful and offers forgiveness to all who turn to God:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are a far cry from the people you have called us to be: we are mired in self-centeredness, seeing things only in terms of how they relate to us and our happiness; we are laden with confusion and fear, which causes our inaction. Turn our hearts, bent as they are towards ourselves, outward. Make us more concerned with others and their welfare, leaving our own concerns to you, O God.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! God's promise to forgive is sure and everlasting. Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #288**

Spirit of the Living God *Living God*
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

By Daniel Iverson / ©1935, renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***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

Loving God, may your Spirit be with us each, showing us your Word and your Way. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19:1-4, 7-10, 14

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.

*Please stand as you are able.

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.

One: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,

All: O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

CHORAL ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter
Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Holst

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 4:14-21*

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

SERMON

"The Power of the Spirit"

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

O Holy Spirit Enter In

Michael Praetorius

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CLOSING 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!

*Please stand as you are able.

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

POSTLUDE *The Glory of the Spirit* Lani Smith

*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.

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.

College Care Packages



The Deacons are gathering contributions to send gift cards to our college 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.

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, January 26

Sunday, February 9

Sunday, 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

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 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.

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 Sunday, January 26, noon to 1 p.m., in the sanctuary.

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.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:
Friday, February 21, 2025
(1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, February 22, 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.

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

17560 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Phone: (440) 543-1071
Email: valleypc@netlink.net

Rev. Dr. John Wahl, Pastor
Cell Phone: (216) 287-2405
Email: revjohnwahl@netlink.net

Heart of Valley Preschool
Heidi Cregar, Director
Phone: (440) 708-2572
Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Jai Mayers

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Jeanne DeLaney