

February 9, 2025
5th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Buchanan
Lead Me Unto Thee

Allan Mahnke
James Southbridge

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #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 Isaiah 6:1-8)

One: Jesus promises that when we gather, God is present.

All: God is with us here. God is with us today.

One: Let us praise our Creator, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty saying,

All: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

One: The Lord of hosts is here. And here we are.

All: Let us worship the Lord.

***OPENING SONG #309** *Come, Great God of All the Ages* *Abbot's Leigh*
(verse 1)

Come, great God of all the ages; make your earthly mission known; speak through every deed and person; let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true commitment; give direction now, we ask; fit us for the work of building; dedicate us to the task.

(verse 2)

Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit, sure foundation, cornerstone; help us form the church eternal; may your vision be our own. Send a message to each follower; lead all people to your way; urge us to strong faith and action as we build the church today.

(verse 3)

Come, great Spirit, in and with us, tune our ears to hear your call; through the moving of your presence, let redeeming love recall ministry in dedication, love embodied in our deeds; challenge us to do your bidding, see your purpose, fill all needs.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God calls us to live our lives in the way of Jesus, who humbly and justly loved God and neighbor. We are called to set ourselves aside, to make the world a better place. We fall short. Let us confess our sins before our just and merciful Creator so that we may be free to live into our purpose again:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of hosts, Jesus of Galilee, forgive us for the ways we have fallen short. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we, instead, put ourselves at the center. You ask us to give away; still, we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; and yet, our eyes are blinded from seeing beyond our divisions. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Hear our silent confessions now.

(Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God hears us when we cry out. God knows our hearts, despite our failures, and treasures the beings that we are. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. You are loved. We are loved. 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 #471**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
(verse 1)

Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

(verse 2)

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.***

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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

Holy God, as we prepare to read your living Word, open our hearts, our ears, and our eyes that we may encounter your Spirit. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 138

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

All: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

One: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

All: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

One: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

All: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

All: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Here I am, Lord

Schutte, arr. by Courtney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON

"At the Breaking Point"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on I Corinthians 15, *Book of Common Worship*)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to

the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our 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

Epiphany

Gerald Peterson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #170** *You Walk along Our Shoreline*

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

(verse 1)

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea. We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me. And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal, then I will make you fishers but of the human soul."

(verse 2)

You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth. We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth. We spread your net of gospel across the water's face, our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

(verse 3)

We cast our net, O Jesus; we cry the kingdom's name; we work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain. You call us, Lord, to gather God's daughters and God's sons, to let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.

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***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Praise the Name of Jesus

R. Hicks, Jr.

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Living God

Edward Broughton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Blankets+ Tools



Through Blankets+ we can give a Valentine to the world. We can help people here and around the world recover from disasters. People often need blankets, food, shelter, safe water, and medical supplies.

Please help "blanket the world with love" by contributing during February. Envelopes are provided on the Narthex table. Thank you for your continued support. Together we can make a difference. Outreach Commission

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

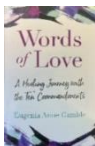
Mid-week Lunch Group – February 11



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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Nancy Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Beverly Wahl