

March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Adagio G. F. Handel, arr. Thomas Bliss
Prelude on Amazing Grace Elizabeth A. Krouse

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL INTROIT #458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet *Thy Word*
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Text by Amy Grant, 1984 / ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)/Word Music / CCL #11043756

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 119:103-105)

One: How sweet are your words to my taste,

All: Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

One: Through your precepts I get understanding;

All: Therefore I hate every false way.

One: Your word is a lamp to my feet

All: And a light to my path.

***OPENING SONG #612**

We Praise You, O God
(verse 1)

Kremser

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

(verse 2)

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

(verse 3)

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Romans 10)

One: Scripture says, "No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame."

Therefore, we do not approach God with shame but with life-giving expectation grounded in our trust of God. For when we confess with our mouth and trust in our heart, we will find healing for ourselves and for the world:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wide circles, we too often ignore your call to pay attention to those living on the margins and hiding in corners. Instead, we revert to our fear-filled instinct to protect ourselves and cut off those unfamiliar and distant. May we evaluate others based on your Son's example of radical inclusion and self-giving love. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life's work.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Romans 10)

One: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #71**

Surely, It is God Who Saves Me
(refrain)

First Song

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

By Jack Noble White / Text: ©1997, HW Gray/Alfred / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***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

Living Word, we know what is written can be used for evil or for good. Open our hearts to your Spirit that the words read and proclaimed would go beyond the imperfect mediums of ink, paper, digital images, and impart your deepest desires for the world into our hearts.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

All: Will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

One: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

All: No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

One: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

All: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

All: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

One: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

All: With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

CHORAL ANTHEM

You Are Mine

Haas / McDaniel

*Soloists (in order of performance): Lois Urban, Marilyn Rodenhausen,
Mary Ball, Tanya Fouts*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON

“The Other Side of the Road”

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole-body [is] joined and knit together” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Theological Declaration of Barmen)

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to

live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

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 *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* *J. S. Bach*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG (Known Unknowns)**

The Word of God Is like a Lamp *Meter: CM*
(verse 1)

The Word of God is like a lamp which scatters light around, revealing truth, rekindling youth, defining holy ground.

(verse 2)

The Word of God is like a sword which pierces to the core, disabling lies, dispelling sighs, to bless and never bore.

(verse 3)

The Word of God is like a chest which brims with precious gold, enriching all who heed God's call with wisdom, new and old.

(verse 4)

So let us praise this gracious God who gave the world his Word; and let our minds be sealed and signed through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *You Are Mine* *Haas*

POSTLUDE *The Church's One Foundation* *Steven Scott*

*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.

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.:

March 9

March 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 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 Time

Monday, March 10

7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Church Library

Sunday, March 23

12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

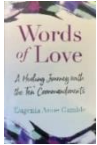
Mid-week Lunch Group – March 11



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 (March 11, April 8, May 13, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, March 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.

Feeding Our Neighbors

See March Valley Voice for additional information.

Monday, March 17

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. Menus will be posted on the sign-up sheet.

Celebration for Pass-it-on

Join us on **Sunday, March 23**, as we recognize and thank the dedicated volunteers who help to make Pass-it-on a success. We will be sharing stories, photos, and (of course) special treats during Fellowship Time. Hope you will join us!

Lenten Devotionals

Gifts of the Spiritual Wilderness by J. Dana Trent

"Gifts of the Spiritual Wilderness: A Lenten Devotional will help you contemplate, process, and explore how Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness intersects with your own 21st century experiences. Through daily devotions with scripture, meditations, practices, prayers, and 'living water' tools for our parched lives. Gifts of the Spiritual Wilderness will guide you on a contemplative and transformative journey from the wilderness to resurrection living."

This booklet offers daily entries starting on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and continuing through Easter Sunday (April 20). They are free to anyone interested and available in the Church Narthex.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Hard or soft tacos, ground beef, taco seasoning, salsa, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, shredded cheese, guacamole, sour cream, refried beans, 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, April 4 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, April 5 (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!

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations can be accepted on-line at the Valley Presbyterian Website below or through *Zelle*. Check with your financial institution to see if they offer *Zelle*. Call the office with any questions.

On-line donations -

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Zelle donations -



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Tanya Fouts

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Bev Wahl