

September 14, 2025
14th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

By Waters Still *John M. Rasley*
Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart *Humphrey Turner*

WELCOME

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #452**

Open the Eyes of My Heart *Open the Eyes*
(refrain)

***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you.***

By Paul Baloche / ©1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Here we are not lost, but found.

All: Here we let go of the past and begin fresh.

One: Here we walk earthly paths but celebrate the joy of heaven.

All: Here we gather in Christ's presence.

One: You are in the right place. You are welcome here.

All: Let us worship God together.

***GATHERING 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.***

Text by Mary Jackson Cathey / ©1990 Hope Publishing Company / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God's ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins have been forgiven.
Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #447

We Are Forgiven

We Are Forgiven

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

One: In Christ we discover a peace that surpasses all human understanding.
Let us share that same peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32:1-7 (split v. 5)

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

One: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

All: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

All: I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD', and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

All: You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Will Joyfully Sing in the Morning

McDonald

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹ Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

THE MESSAGE

"All in the Family"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

WITNESS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL 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

Lied (German for "Song")

Lani Smith

***DOXOLOGY #709** *God, We Honor You* *Abundant Blessings*
God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and
adore you. Take what we bring, offered to you. Teach us to show
your abundant blessings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

Text by James E. Clemens / ©2008 by James E. Clemens / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG

A Covenant of Grace

O Waly Waly

(verse 1)

We all come from the dusty earth, and from the places of our birth,
ancestral stories who we'll be, we bring it all to come and see.

(verse 2)

We all have wounds that no one sees, oppression, trauma, and disease,
when we bear witness to the pain, it can begin to heal again.

(verse 3)

We all need people who will be, with us in solidarity, no explanation, no
defense, just ministry of their presence.

(verse 4)

Surprised by God's unbounded love, from many walks of life we come, to
build a covenant of grace, and in our differences embrace.

Text by Anna Strickland / ©2021 Anna and David Strickland / Used by permission

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Townley

POSTLUDE

Firm in the Faith

Todd Kendall

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Any cleaning supplies, paper products, condiments, or anything you would like to donate.

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

Community Meal

Tuesday, September 16



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 alfredo, pasta, salad, bread, dessert

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 a cake (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on September 16th.

See the September Valley Voice, weekly e-mail, or the Church website for the links to sign up to volunteer and for the meal.

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, September 21

Please join us after worship for a Town Hall Meeting in Fellowship Hall to discuss recent events and some upcoming decisions.

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

Sunday, September 21

5:00 p.m. in the Church Library

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.:
September 21**

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 have 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 bulky size-5 or 6 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

Valley Adult Choir

WHY SING IN THE CHOIR YOU MIGHT ASK?

Maybe you feel you are not up to the task!

WELL.....



Just think of the fellowship, the music, and the time that will be spent with others, as we learn each musical line. The congregation's appreciation, the new CHAIRS that were bought, and, of course, singing together in the church choir LOFT!!!

SO....Maybe this will be the year when you will decide to join us; and then you, too, will discover how wonderful it is to sing with each other.

Rehearsals started 9/11/25 and are at 7 p.m.

Valley Sanctuary

See You Then!!!

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>
(Can only be used for donations.)

Zelle donations:



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: Amy Belew

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Gerry Chittock