

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent
Sacrament of Holy Communion

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Communion Aria

Franklin Ritter

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #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.

By John Thompson and Randy Scruggs / ©1982 Whole Armor/Full Armor Music (admin. by The Kruger Org.)
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***RESPONSIVE OPENING SENTENCES (Psalm 121:1-2, Revelation 22:17)**

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Let everyone who is thirsty come,

All: Come and receive the water of life.

***GATHERING SONG #504**

We Come as Guests Invited

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

(verse 1)

***We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine, his friends on earth
united to share the bread and wine; the bread of life is broken; the wine
is freely poured for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.***

(verse 2)

***We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need, and in our
hearts believing on him by faith we feed; with wonder and thanksgiving
for love that knows no end, we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.***

(verse 3)

***One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine, our fellowship
declaring renewed in bread and wine: renewed, sustained, and given
by token, sign, and word, the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of
Christ our Lord.***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: We need God's help. Therefore, let us approach God's throne of grace
and honestly confess all that keeps us from right relationship:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, as we travel through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware
of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey.
Forgive us for turning away from you and going in the wrong direction.**

*Please stand as you are able.

Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this season of Lent thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace.

(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (John 3:17)

One: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #702** *Christ Be Beside Me*

Bunessan

(verse 2)

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shielding in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Because we have peace with God through Christ, let us share this peace together. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 11:17-27*

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Psalm 104:24a, 27-30

One: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

*Please stand as you are able.

One: When you give to them, they gather it up;

All: When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

One: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

All: When you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

One: When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

All: And you renew the face of the ground.

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Journey

Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:32-44

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

THE MESSAGE

"Unbound and Free"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON CONFESSON OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith, 1983)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

Poco Lento

Cesar Franck

***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.**

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these
forty days of Lent. As we travel through the wilderness help us to share
your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***SENDING SONG #526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ *Linstead*
(verse 1)

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and
heard. Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word
around: loaves abound!**

(verse 2)

**Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching
people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives
again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

(verse 3)

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us
love to tell, bread to share: God everywhere! Jesus lives again; earth
can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

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***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Come As You Are* *Rand & Rand*

***FINAL BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *Epilogue* *Steven Scott*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, March 6 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, March 7 (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 Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
March 8 & 22

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

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!

The next meeting will be:
Tuesday, March 10

Our study this year is:

PCUSA: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Meet September — May the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Books are available and cost \$14.00. To order a book or for more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

Mid-week Lunch Group – March 10



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 10, April 14, May 12, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Ground beef, hard / soft tacos, taco seasoning, sour cream, shredded cheddar, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, refried beans, corn bread, anything for tacos, or anything you would like to donate.

There will be a Taco Tuesday distribution on March 24th.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



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: Lois Urban

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Lillian Smyser