

July 26, 2026

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship Series:

A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves
Week Eight: Fully Alive in Christ

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

I Stand Amazed (My Savior's Love)

Gabriel

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Surely the Lord is in this place...

All: Though we cannot predict when and where God's glorious presence will show up.

One: Surely we are the Body of Christ.

All: So, we cannot say to one another, "I have no need of you."

One: Surely our God is a mystery that cannot be contained.

All: Therefore, let us worship our unpredictable and uncontrollable God!

*GATHERING SONG #401 *Here in This Place*

Gather Us In

(verse 1)

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

(verse 2)

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

(verse 3)

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

(verse 4)

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins together and then in silence:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace, we want to understand what walking in your pathways is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your presence, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the rulers of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE #697

*Take My Life
(verse 1)*

Hendon

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit who claims us and makes us your own, join us as we come to the Scriptures today. Reveal to us the Word within the words, that we might see Jesus and learn his way. Amen.

UNISON FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*God Help the Outcasts
Performed by: Payton Timmons*

Menken

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 13:10-17*

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?' ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

THE MESSAGE

"Fully Alive in Christ"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

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

Sacred Silence

Booth & Pixler

***DOXOLOGY #697**

*Take My Life
(verse 6)*

Hendon

***Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only,
all for thee.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***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.

***SENDING SONG**

*This Little Light of Mine
(verse 1)*

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

**Please stand as you are able.*

(verse 2)

***Deep down in my soul, I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul, I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

(verse 3)

***Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

Source: Hymns and Devotions for Daily Worship (African American Edition) #11

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Joel Rainey

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Eight: Fully Alive in Christ

Questions to Ponder/Discuss:

- What makes you feel loved? Can you ask for that from others? Can you give that to yourself as well?
- Do you believe we cannot fully love others if we do not love ourselves? Why or why not?
- What is the most gracious thing anyone could ever say to you right now?

Spiritual Practice:

Write a list of all the things that bring you deep joy and make you feel alive. Do one of these every day.

Faith Garden

In Valley's Faith Garden (located outside of the Church Library), we grow fresh produce to be donated to the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Food Bank. There are garden gloves and tools in the shed, or feel free to bring your own. The last summer garden workday is below:

Summer Garden Workday

Wednesday at 10 a.m.

July 29

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Any meat or fresh fruits or anything you would like to donate.

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.

Wednesday Dinner and Entertainment

Join friends from Valley and beyond on **Wednesday evening, August 19**, from 6-8:00 p.m., for some food, drinks, and fun. The owners of Sharon James have agreed to donate ten percent of all sales (if you mention code VPC2026) back to the church. Enjoy the covered patio and performers (featuring comedy from Sean Bulanda) for open-mic night. Reservations are recommended but not required:

Sharon James Cellars
11303 Kinsman Road, Newbury, OH 44065
440-739-4065

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 or purchase via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Gerry Chittock