

September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

By Waters Still

John M. Rasley

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come to this place seeking the path of righteousness and truth.

All: We come ready to hear and learn by giving attention to God's Word.

One: We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn from the one whose authority is founded on God's love.

All: We come with open ears and hearts because this is God's house, where God seeks to align our work and witness, built by love and sustained by hope.

***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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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: What are the burdens on your spirit? What regrets or hurt do you carry today? Together, let us confess that which fails to give us life and take up, instead, the love and grace of God:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions fall short; when we embrace liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We assume that you will judge us as we often judge ourselves and one another. Lord, forgive our shortcomings and the ways we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us as people who have heard good news: reminding us there is still work to be done.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations; we are forgiven; we are set free and made ready to fully live.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #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

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Forgiven and set free, let us be reconciled with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life and light, illumine our hearts and spirits and attune us to the sharing of your Word. May our hearing be discerning be faithful and, in all things, may we approach you with joy and humility. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

One: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

All: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

One: Things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

All: We will not hide them from their children;

One: We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

All: In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

One: He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

All: In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

*Please stand as you are able.

One: He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

All: He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

CHORAL ANTHEM

He is the Everlasting God

Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

THE MESSAGE

"Water from the Ground"

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

Diademata

Harold Rutz

***DOXOLOGY #742**

We Will Walk with God (sing twice)

Sizohamba Naye

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God. We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #623**

I've Got Peace like a River

Peace like a River

(verse 1)

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river, in my soul. I've got river, in my soul.

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 2)

I've got joy like a fountain; I've got joy like a fountain; I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul. I've got fountain, in my soul.

(verse 3)

I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean, in my soul. I've got ocean, in my soul.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Peace Be Upon You

Wilshire

***POSTLUDE**

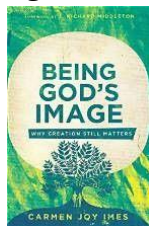
Joy Eternal

Garrett Parker

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Study – Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters **by Dr. Carmen Joy Imes**



I was recently introduced to the deep theological insights and scholarship of the author during my study leave seminar at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Michigan. Her book is insightful, but easy-to-read, and includes suggested scripture readings and discussion questions for each chapter. Weekly sessions will last 60-75 minutes and include an accompanying video from The Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/all>.

Eleven weekly sessions - Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (beginning Sept. 21) in the Church Library. Books are available in the Church office for \$15.

Good Futures – I-Spy Community Assessment

Valley members are invited to assist the Good Futures Initiative Team by participating in an I-Spy activity.

Today, September 27, we invite all participants to a 30–45-minute community conversation, beginning at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, where we will share what we have seen and heard.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who provided special music for the summer worship services!!! The variety of music and the talent that we are blessed with here at Valley is a "GIFT!!!"

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Any meat, fresh fruit / vegetables, milk, eggs, lunch meat, bread, snacks, 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.

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 on Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
September 27**

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 the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. We are currently making items for babies and young children. If you have any size-3 or 4 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

Pet Blessing

Blessing of Animals is sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches and will take place:



Sunday, October 4, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

at

Valley Presbyterian Church
(under the portico)

All donations will go to the Geauga County Dog Warden and Animal Rescue Village.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

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

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for "Donations" in the header. 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

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Lillian Smyser