

October 18, 2026
3rd Sunday in Season of Creation

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Shepherd in the Wilderness

Dennis Eliot

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #37**

Let All Things Now Living
(verse 1, stanza 1)

Ash Grove

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.

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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 96)**

One: Sing to the Lord a new song!

All: Everyone, even the rocks and trees, sing!

One: Let us shout out in praise!

All: God does great things for us.

One: See God's amazing works all around us.

All: Great is the Lord!

One: Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

***GATHERING SONG #2001 (STF)**

We Sing to You, O God
(verse 1)

Darwall's 148th

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth, let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O God, let songs be raised, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

(verse 2)

We wandered far from home out in a desert land, you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band. You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.

(verse 3)

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young, who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun. We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.

(verse 4)

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings, the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring. Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: We come to worship because we believe in the goodness of God. And we come knowing that we don't always bear that goodness in our lives. So,

*Please stand as you are able.

we confess, knowing that God is good and merciful, faithful and kind. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins, first together and then in silent prayer...

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glitz and glamour. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice and fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are your people – beloved and called. Give us courage to show mercy and grace to a world in deep need.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the good news. Even in our imperfection, God loves us and won't let us go. Know that you are forgiven and made new, sent forth to love and serve.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #695**

Change My Heart, O God Change My Heart
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart,
O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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***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

All: Lord, as we come to hear your Word for us, still in us all that distracts us. Open our ears to hear these scriptures read and proclaimed. And open our hearts to be transformed to be your people, to love and serve with faithful obedience. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Joel 1:11-20*

¹¹ Be dismayed, you farmers, wail, you vine-dressers, over the wheat and the barley; for the crops of the field are ruined. ¹² The vine withers, the fig tree droops. Pomegranate, palm, and apple—all the trees of the field are dried up; surely, joy withers away among the people. ¹³ Put on sackcloth and lament, you priests; wail, you ministers of the altar.

Come, pass the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God! Grain-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. ¹⁴ Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the

*Please stand as you are able.

house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord. ¹⁵ Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. ¹⁶ Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? ¹⁷ The seed shrivels under the clods, the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are ruined because the grain has failed. ¹⁸ How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander about because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep are dazed. ¹⁹ To you, O Lord, I cry. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰ Even the wild animals cry to you because the watercourses are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Prayer with Lead Me Lord

Foster & Sager

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Mark 1:9-13*

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

THE MESSAGE

"In the Wilderness"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Voluntary on St. Catherine

Robert Lind

***DOXOLOGY #710** *We Lift Our Voices* *Offering*

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #308** *O God in Whom All Life Begins* *Noel*
(verse 1)

O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit, bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root. Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace; deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

(verse 2)

Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts. So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

(verse 3)

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care; so bind us in community that we may risk and dare. Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray; then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

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***BLESSING**

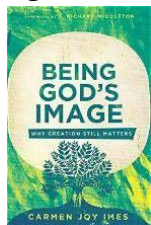
***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Peace Be Upon You* *Wilshire*

***POSTLUDE** *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* *John Barr*

*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. (September 21 – December 7) in the Church Library. Books are available in the Church office for \$15.

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.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, October 23

(1 – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, October 24

(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 on Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
October 25**

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

North Presbyterian Church

Meal Preparation and Serving

Valley has a long-standing partnership with North Presbyterian Church, a congregation consisting mainly of homeless and impoverished members in the St. Claire neighborhood of downtown Cleveland. Four Sundays a year, we share worship and a meal with the folks at North Church.

Meal Preparation

Saturday, October 31

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. (2-4 volunteers)

Meal Serving

Sunday, November 1

Depart at 9:30 a.m., return by 2:00 p.m. (2-4 volunteers)

Pulpit Exchange – Sunday, November 1



Please welcome Rev. Katherine Chilcote, pastor of North Presbyterian Church, as she leads worship and shares about doing ministry with the homeless and housing insecure at North, while Pastor John swaps place with her and leads worship there.

Community Church Breakfast – Postponed!

The participating congregations of the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches have decided to pause this year's Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, originally scheduled for November 7, 2026, with the hope of revisiting this gathering at a future date. We are grateful for the continued support, participation, and commitment of our local congregations and community partners and remain committed to fostering these relationships.

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

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Nancy Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Glenna Pool