

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.

March 27, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - How Great Thou Art - Janet Linker

Call to Worship

God created all things visible and invisible; none other.

God provides food for your stomach and spirit; none other.

God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

Let us worship the Trinity, and none other.

Opening Hymn No. 75 - All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why! the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Invocation

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

John 6:1-24 (New Testament page 97/91)

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for

these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

God's Word for Young Disciples

Hymn No. 140 (8:30) - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Anthem (11:00) - *He Was Despised* - Heinrich Graun

Sermon - *The Unexplained*

Pastor Mike Ward

Hymn of Response No. 150 - *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven*

God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space,
we, your children, in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

Proudly rise our modern cities,
stately buildings row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,
stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed
in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning,
scarcely caring where they go.

We have conquered worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through uncharted realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,

serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

Discipleship Moment

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Lenten Spiritual Discipline: Silence

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn No. 297 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 298)

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Postlude - *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* - Alfred Fedak



The rose on the altar is in honor of Marshall William Dienner, great-grandson of Ron and Peggy Manson.

Thank you to Cathy Poremba, this morning's guest organist.

Liturgists: 8:30 Sharon Nerhood; 11:00 Tim Zuschin

Service Music: 11:00 - Chancel Choir

Altar Guild: Carol Lewis, Paulette Wagner

Music: One License A-731491

****Please rise as you are able. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment. Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the narthex. CDs of the service are available by signing up at the Welcome Center.**

CHURCH NOTES

Men's Time Out: All men of the church and community are invited for an hour of fellowship and discussion on Saturday, April 2, at 8:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall. Men's Time Out meets the first Saturday of every month.

Organ Recitals: The organ concerts continue every Thursday throughout Lent from noon to 12:30. On Thursday, March 31, Mark Thewes, organist at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Massillon, will be the featured musician.

Pastries with the Pastors - Are you newer to First Church? We would like to get to know you better! Please join us on Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor for pastries and coffee with our pastoral team and our Director of Worship and Music, Dean Wagner.

Game Night: Join us for an evening of fun at our monthly Game Night. It will take place on Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring your own games, or come planning to try out new games others have brought.

UMW Accessory Sale: It's back! The sale will take place on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We are asking for donations of gently used jewelry, purses, and scarves. The deadline for donations is Sunday, May 8. All money raised goes to missions.

Texas Roadhouse: We are having a fundraiser through the Texas Roadhouse in Stow to benefit Work Camp. Grab a flyer from the Welcome Center and take it to the restaurant on Tuesday, April 12, between 3 and 10 pm. When you present the flyer they will donate 10% of your total food purchase to the church to help with the costs of the projects at Henderson Settlement.

Montgomery Scholarship: Applications are available for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship. They may be picked up in the church office. The deadline to submit applications will be Friday, April 22. Applicants must be a member of First Church, be a graduating senior, and be planning to enroll in college or a technical school for the 2022-2023 school year.

Vacation Bible School: It's time to start planning for Vacation Bible School, June 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. VBS is for age 3 (by 9/30/22 and potty-trained) through 4th grade. VBS SERVE is a week of mission projects and field trips for children entering 5th and 6th grades. VBS Extreme is an afternoon program for children entering 1st through 6th grades. Registration will be open on April 1. Spaces are limited, so register early.

Haiti Rice Packing: We are to again partner with LifeLine Ministries on Sunday, April 3, to pack meals for hungry Haiti children. This will allow the congregation to take part in helping to pack rather than just donate to the meals. Today the children will be collecting money to help pay for supplies. Each bag that is packed costs \$1.74 and is enough for 6 meals. This year we will also have a church- wide rice lunch (very similar to what we are packing) right after church and then head down to pack some meals.

Easter Egg Hunt: Join us on Saturday, April 9 for our Easter Egg Hunt from 10am to 11am. will start off with our Easter Egg Hunt with four age groups from birth through 6th grade. We will have a telling of the Easter Story and a picnic lunch for everyone who attends. This is a great chance to invite family and friends as we are reminded of the real reason for Easter. If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol. Please drop off candy, small toys, boxes of raisins and individual bags of chips, by Sunday, April 3.

Next Steps

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles,^[d] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I;^[e] do not be afraid."

Questions for Reflection:

How does Jesus feed you today?

What did the disciples think when they realized Jesus expected them to feed over 5000 people?

I wonder how that child felt when he realized his 5 loaves and 2 small fish became such an amazing feast for so many? Have you ever given something small, and it turned out to be something big for someone else?

Was Jesus ready to feed the crowd before he preached?

What was done with the leftovers after the crowd ate?

Questions for Discussion:

Did Jesus increase the amount of food present, or did the crowd also have food with them that they shared? How was the food distributed to the crowd?

Why did the disciples leave without Jesus? Was this a test of sorts for the disciples?

How could Jesus be forced to become king?

When Jesus walks to the boat, how scary would it have been for these fishermen who were used to inclement weather? Was this also a test for the disciples?

Why have we not learned anything in 2000 years, since we act similarly to the crowd when we doubt certain things?

Memory Verse:

Vs. 2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.

Readings for Next Week: Acts 8:9-24, Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12: 1-8

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
March 27, 2022**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Gay Letzler - Akron City

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie
Bob Ahonen
Shirley Asher
Mary Ellen Atwood
Alice Becher
Behrman family
Donna Copeland

Don Corbett
Jean Finnegan
Dave Gohr
Rose Gregory
Joyce Haberkost
Jim Henes
George Kirk

Pat Park
David Potter
Robby & Lou Robinson
Kathi Sawyer
Kay Steiner
Ken Tunstall
Jim Vogel