

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.

April 3, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Nothing But the Blood of Jesus - William Best

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Opening Hymn No. 144 - This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Invocation

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
In love you made us for yourself;
and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast.
You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts**

**and prepare with joy for the Easter feast,
that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments
and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy,
we may come to the fullness of grace
that you have prepared for those who love you.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:9-24 (New Testament page)

Now a certain man named Simon had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, 'This man is the power of God that is called Great.' And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.' Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.'

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

Children's Anthem - *Great Big Bundle* - David Clydesdale

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem

(8:30) - *I Will Give Thanks* - Allen pote

(11:00) - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - Gilbert Martin

Sermon - *The Balance of Science and Faith*

Rev. Jon Priebe

Apostles' Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth

at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Discipleship Moment/Teacher Recognition

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.

Invitation

Confession and Pardon (Cecil Kerr; *UM Book of Worship* #482)

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Communion

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn No. 577 - God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown thine ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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 -Grand Chorus in G minor - Alexandre Guilmant



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given:

in honor of Erin Ball and Ryan Bard, by Erv and LuAnne Ball

Liturgists: 8:30- Chad Wagner; 11:00 - Gerald Lewis

Service Music: 8:30 - Epworth Choir 11:00 - Chancel Choir, Cherub Choir directed by Vickie Nagel

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

Organ Recitals: The organ concerts continue every Thursday throughout Lent from noon to 12:30.

Pastries with the Pastors - Are you newer to First Church? We would like to get to know you better! Please join us **TODAY** 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.

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 is now open. Spaces are limited, so register early.

Ukraine Rice Packing: We are to again partnering with LifeLine Ministries **TODAY**, 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 next 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.

UMW Grace Circle Missions Project for the month of April:

Summit County Children Services Beds for Kids Program

When Summit County Children Services social workers enter homes to assess concerns of child abuse and neglect, they frequently find children without safe sleeping conditions. When the family has limited or no resources to provide a bed or crib, Summit County Children Services caseworkers turn to this program for help. A donation of any amount is helpful. Donations of new twin or crib bedding, sheets, blankets and pillows are also needed. Pamphlets are available in the display by the Welcome Center. You may include your donation in the offering plate or drop box, checks made payable to UMW, memo Beds for Kids. Bedding, sheets, blankets, and pillows may be dropped off at the Welcome Center as well. Please help us, help a child in our community sleep soundly tonight.

OPEN M mission project: OPEN has a young female client Mia who is pregnant and her husband went back to their home country to try and get a work visa to help out. In the meantime Mia has had minimal prenatal care and is in need of supplies when the baby arrives. So we are taking a collection of clothes, blankets, gift cards for diapers etc to help her out. The baby is due in April and is a girl. Donations can be dropped off at the church or if you have questions you can

contact Nancy Lyberger 330-524-6378. Prayers are most definitely welcomed for mom, dad and baby. Thank you in advance for any one participating.

VBS needs: We are in need of paper towel rolls for a VBS mission project. Please drop off before, Sunday June, 5.

Financial Peace University: Our Stewardship team has obtained a Ramsey+ site license to help, and we're offering it as a free gift to help you achieve your goals of living a debt free life, giving generously, living the life you are called to live, and sharing this gift with your family. Access it at: <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahoga?pc=57393889>

Financial update:

Compared to Budget

	Feb.	Year-to-date	Annual Budget
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2/28/22</u>	<u>2022</u>
Income	-\$3, 279	-\$3,738	\$780,918
Operating Expnses	-\$3,263	-\$4,947	\$835,345
Total Over/Under	-\$16	-\$1,209	-\$54,427

Next Steps

Science and Religion

Where is the line between trusting science and trusting God?

Acts 8:9, 19 – Simon’s downfall appears to be using knowledge to acquire power

Simon the Magician

Matthew 2:1 – The wise men who visited Jesus were, like Simon, described as *Magoi*

The study of nature by the Magi serves their pursuit of knowledge, not power

“The one created thing which we cannot look at is the one thing in the light of which we look at everything.” – G.K. Chesterton on the sun

Memory Verse: Psalm 19:1 – “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.”

Readings for this Week: Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 19:28-44, Psalm 139:7-18

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
April 3, 2022**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Lou Robinson - Akron City

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Jean Finnegan	Pat Park
Bob Ahonen	Dave Gohr	David Potter
Shirley Asher	Rose Gregory	Robby Robinson
Mary Ellen Atwood	Joyce Haberkost	Kathi Sawyer
Alice Becher	Jim Henes	Kay Steiner
Behrman family	George Kirk	Ken Tunstall
Donna Copeland	Gay Letzler	Jim Vogel
Don Corbett		Peg Yeager