

**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 13, 2022**

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

*Prelude - Voluntary I - G. F. Handel*

***Call to Worship***

May those who love your salvation say continually,

**“Great is the Lord!”**

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise,

**“Great is the Lord!”**

***Opening Hymn No. 160\*\* - Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart***

Rejoice, ye pure in heart;  
rejoice, give thanks and sing;  
your glorious banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Your clear hosannas raise,  
and alleluias loud;  
whilst answering echoes upward float,  
like wreaths of incense cloud.  
(Refrain)

Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as ye go;  
from youth to age, by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe.  
(Refrain)

At last the march shall end;  
the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their heavenly home,  
Jerusalem the blest.  
(Refrain)

Praise God who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore,  
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one God forevermore.  
(Refrain)

### ***Invocation***

**Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant us piety of heart and strength of purpose, so that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly, and in your service find our perfect freedom. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

### **PROCLAMATION**

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages*

### ***Scripture Reading***

1 Corinthians 3:1-15 (New Testament page 167/156)

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

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

### ***Anthem***

8:30 - *O sifuni mungu* - Roger Emerson

(Sung partially in Swahili)

(All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing. All men, all creatures, everybody praise God.)  
All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing. Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon, with softer gleam; thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear! Thou fire, so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light. Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness. Praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!

11:00 - *Blessed Assurance* - Joel Raney

One thing I'm sure of, one thing I know: God walks beside me wherever I go. He'll never leave me, he's there to stay. God holds my hand, he lights my way. God's love is perfect, his arms are strong. He's right here with me, I'm not alone.

When my heart's broke, he's there to mend. He is my Savior, he is my friend. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. His love is perfect, his arms are strong. He's right here with me, I'm not alone. When my hearts broken he's there to mend. He is my Savior, he is my friend. (The two texts are now sung simultaneously).

### ***God's Word for Young Disciples***

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

### ***Reception of 50 Year Members***

Karen France

Tamara King

Karen Wallace

Lisa Jenkins

Barbara Steinhauer

Peg Yeager

***Sermon - Return on Investment***

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

#### ***Hymn No. 463\*\* - Lord, Speak to Me***

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou has sought, so let me seek  
thine erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand  
firm on the rock, and strong in thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand  
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious things thou dost impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as thou wilt, and when, and where,  
until thy blessed face I see,  
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

### ***Discipleship Moment***

**Offertory** - Prelude on "St. Agnes" (Jesus the Very Thought of Thee)

Gordon Young

**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.**

**Litany of Consecration**

Almighty God, from you comes every good and perfect gift.

**We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies.**

Your goodness has created us,

**Your bounty has sustained us,**

Your discipline has chastened us,

**Your patience has borne with us,**

And your love has redeemed us.

**Give us a heart to love and serve you,**

And enable us to show our thankfulness for all your goodness and mercy,

**By giving up all that we have and all that we are to your service,**

With confident faith that when we plant and water and tend,

**You always produce an increase and provide, from your goodness, the return on our investment.**

**Prayers of the People/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. 399\*\* - Take My Life, and Let It Be**

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be

filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

***Benediction and Choral Response*** - (Hymn No. 668)

**Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus. Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties. Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of thee.**

***Postlude*** - *Toccata in the Style of Scarlatti* - Gordon Young



**The anthem, *O sifuni mungu*, was donated in loving memory of Rachel Salladay.**

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**  
in loving memory of Howie Dardas on his birthday, by Mary Dardas.

**Liturgist:** 8:30 Chad Wagner; 11:00 Kim Yoak

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel, Wesley and Bethlehem Choirs

**Music:** One License A-731491

## CHURCH NOTES

**Fall Hiking Spree:** Today's is our last hike and it will be at Gorge Metro Park on the Glens Trail (1.8 miles.) We will meet at 2:00 p.m. for a quick devotion.

**Pastor Mike Ward** graduated from the Course of Study program! Let's shower him with cards to congratulate him. Please bring or mail cards to First Church with "Pastor Mike" on the envelope. Thank you!

**Holiday Nuts Are Back!** Head down to Asbury Hall between and after church services and in the church office during the week to purchase delicious nuts for the holiday. Or order them now for a specific Sunday. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center. We are offering Deluxe mixed nuts and whole cashews for \$10/lb and raw pecans for \$12/lb.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** Now is the time to order the poinsettias to adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. The plants are \$9 each. The list of donors and those memorialized or honored will appear in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please make your check out to First Church and return it with the order to the church office **by noon TOMORROW, November 14.**

Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor of (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thanksgiving Service:** There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving prayer service on Tuesday, November 22, at 7 pm at St. John's Episcopal. Rev. Priebe will preach that evening. Join us as we gather with the other churches on Church Square to give thanks together.

**Socks!** The Acts of Grace Circle will continue to collect socks during the month of November for the men and women at Haven of Rest/Harvest Home. Please bring in new socks and place them in the basket located outside the church library. Thank you!

**Parent's Morning Out:** We will sponsor a Parents Morning Out for infants through grade 6 on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to noon. Children will enjoy a pancake breakfast, shop at the Santa Shop (included in the cost), watch a movie and more. The cost is \$10/child and \$25 max/family of preschool and elementary children. Families with more than 3 children, will need to pay an additional \$10 for each child under 3.

**Santa Shop Items Needed:** We are in need of items for our annual Santa Shop - especially for children, teens and men. We also need Christmas gift bags of all sizes, wrapping paper, and scotch tape. You may drop off your items in the bin by the Welcome Center by Wednesday, December 7. Please contact Karol Lewis if you are able to help the kids with their wrapping or Donna Curfman to help with shepherding the kids or with the pancake breakfast.

**Operation Christmas Child:** This organization helps more than 7 million children experience Christmas by collecting and distributing gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 100 countries. You can help by buying new items to pack, donating \$10 to cover the shipping costs, or taking a shoebox from the Breezeway display and returning it completed by November 20. A complete list of items is available at the Welcome Center. Please return items by, **tomorrow** November 14.

**1st Church Feeds:** Our November and December food distributions have been moved to the 3rd Saturday due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please mark your calendars for November 19, and December 17. If you have not volunteered before, or you are interested in helping be the hands of Jesus to those in our community that need food assistance, please contact Jen LaFleur at [jenlafleur98@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlafleur98@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Hat & Mitten Mission:** We will begin our Hat & Mitten mission at the end of November. If you are out shopping and you find gloves/ mittens/ winter hats, or socks, please consider purchasing them for this mission project. More information will be forthcoming as to where the donation table will be located.

**OPEN M Missions:** Once again it is time to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We are collecting money for Christmas turkeys and gifts for children. Last year we provided 156 turkeys and gifts for 78 children. Turkeys run about \$15.00 and children's gifts \$50.00 per child for two gifts. When donating please use separate checks and do not include it at the same time as usual church gifts. You can drop your check or donation off if you like while in church. Please make sure to designate OPEN M Christmas or OPEN M turkeys. Blessings for considering others.

## Next Steps

### Us and Them

vs. 5 – the temptation to build walls between us and others is too easy  
defining ourselves by who we call our enemies feels easier than making disciples

### How Firm a Foundation

vs. 14 – on the foundation of Christ, we don't build walls, we build others up  
investing in others is the kind of building work that will last!

Questions for Reflection: There is a time and a place for regular rest and renewal. As followers and imitators of Christ, this is an important discipline he practiced. However, we are also charged with keeping an eye toward the needs of others and ensuring that we spend ourselves on things that will last. When I take stock of how I spend my free time, how well am I using it to invest in the things that will last? Do I need to make any adjustments, lay aside any commitments that don't lead to helping others grow, or develop any new habits?

Question for Discussion: Which of the ministries that were talked about in the Stewardship letter and by Pastor Jon today spark your interest the most? Why? How might you get more involved with them?

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:9 – “For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Readings for this Week: Matthew 5:38-47, Luke 1:67-80, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
November 13, 2022**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

Bob Ahonen & Larry Behrman – Akron General    Donna Copeland – Akron City  
Patsy Boyd – Cleveland Metro    Gus Mercurio - Akron City

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Larry Brimlow	Gary Kinsey
Bob Ahonen	Don Corbett	Bonnie & Jerry Nine
Debbie Amundsen	Tom Cully	Pat Park
Shirley Asher	Jean Finnegan	David Potter
Mary Ellen Atwood	Dave Gohr	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Rose Gregory	David Townsend
Behrman family	Mary Griest	Mary & Ken Tunstall
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Joyce Haberkost	Marilyn Waller
Robert Boyd	Jim Henes	

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Alice Becher on her death on 11/4.  
Family of member Doris Warnick on her death on 11/7.