

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - I Will Arise and Go To Jesus - Raymond Haan

Call to Worship

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

Be strong, and let your heart take courage

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Opening Hymn No. 152 - I Sing the Almighty Power of God**

*I sing the almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the
ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.*

*There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.*

Invocation

O God of all nations, you manifested your love by sending your only son into the world that all might live through him. Pour out your spirit on your church, that it may fulfill his command to preach the gospel everywhere; send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; give them grace to bear faithful witness to you; and fill them with zeal and love, that they may turn many to righteousness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

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

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Anthem

8:30 - *Order My Steps* - Jack Schrader

11:00 - *Thou Art Holy* - Craig Courtney

Sermon - *God's Promise of Ministry*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn No. 340 - Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye weary, heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

*Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Rhosymedre (My Song is Love Unknown) - David Johnson

(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates in the narthex or bring it to the front during the offertory.)

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.

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. 569** - We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

*We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.*

Refrain:

*For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.
(Refrain)*

*We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.
(Refrain)*

*We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.
(Refrain)*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 438)

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

Postlude - *Postlude on "Duke Street"* - Charles Callahan



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in memory of Juanita White, by her son Gary White.

Music: One License A-731491

Alpha Study: Alpha is for beginning Christians, those who are not of the faith but curious, or even those further along in their faith who want a refresher course on the big picture of the Christian faith. It will start Tuesday, February 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and will be led by Jerry Killian. Please contact church office, 330-923-5241, by January 31 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

New to First Church? We want to get to know you! Our next Pizza with the Pastors will be on Sunday, February 5, in Asbury Hall following the 11:00 worship service. Please RSVP to the office to let us know you're coming, how many are in your family, and if you have any dietary restrictions.

Ramsey+ and Financial Peace University: Do you want to create a life without financial stress? We've invested in a Ramsey+ site license so every family in our church has access to a one-year membership full of tools and resources to help you honor God with your money. If you're ready for this, go to <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc> and sign up. A Financial Peace class will begin on Sunday, February 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. There is a \$50 fee per family.

Wesley Youth Outing: The Wesley Ice Skating Outing (for grades 4 - 6) will take place on Sunday, January 29, from 12 - 2:30. We will walk to the Front Street Ice Rink. There is no cost unless you need to rent skates (\$5.00.) Bring a sack lunch. After we return we will feast on hot chocolate and knit until it is time for bells and choir rehearsals. Be sure to bring your looms if you took them home. Sign-up sheets are at the

Welcome Center and must be returned before you can participate. Contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you have questions.

Hat & Mitten Mission - We are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage & 3rd.

Acme Receipts: Receipts dated through December 24 may still be turned in at the Welcome Center. **All receipts will be due by the end of January.**

Blessings Box - Our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library.

Anniversary Concert: Mark your calendars now for Friday, February 10, when Dean Wagner will delight us with a concert celebrating his 35 years at First Church. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.

First Church Feeds Needs: At our monthly distribution, we are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis, so we are requesting donations. Please drop off items in the bin marked First Church Feeds behind the Welcome Center. And as always, monetary donations are appreciated as well.

Heart4theCity: Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, and gloves (work style NOT cotton as they have enough of these currently) to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library.

Walk to Emmaus: Have you taken part in the Walk to Emmaus, either locally or in a different state or country? We would like to put together a participant list of people who have. Please send Pastor Mike the following information: name, phone number, email address, and your Walk information.

Weekday Christian Preschool: Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2023. The program is state licensed and staffed with degreed lead teachers and trained teachers' assistants. We believe that learning takes place through discovery and play. Each classroom environment is child led and teacher facilitated. Our main objective is to foster a positive self-image in each child while nourishing their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

2022 Financial Report:

2022 Revenues - \$814K
2022 Expenses - \$830K
Net loss for 2022 - \$16K

2022 Beginning Operating Fund Balance - \$246K
2022 Loss - (\$16K)
2022 Ending Operating Fund Balance - \$\$230K
(Our goal is to keep our Operating Fund Balance > \$150K)

In addition, we received:
\$95K in gifts for specific missions and funds
\$175K in G&M distributions on 9/30/22 for Trustees and Endowment Fund use
\$49K in Capital Expense donations

Next Steps

Nothing You Have To Do...

vs. 17 – Jesus’s first sermon echoes John’s preaching on the kingdom

vs. 20 – Jesus wasn’t a stranger to these first disciples

vs. 12 – his call came just as their first rabbi was arrested

God’s Promise of Ministry

Their hopes of change for a better tomorrow were collapsing

vs. 18 - Jesus calls them in the midst of their devastation

There is always a way we can be effective for God’s kingdom!

Questions for Reflection: When has God met me in my devastation and loss? How has God used these experiences to help others? Is it possible God is calling me to “fish for people” through a new calling out of my current grief or loss?

Question for Discussion: What does it mean to you that Jesus wasn’t a stranger to Andrew and John and their brothers, but that his calling came from a previous relationship? How might Jesus be calling to you today through your relationship with him?

Memory Verse: **Matthew 4:19** – *“And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’”*

Readings for this Week: Matthew 20:20-28, Matthew 5:1-12, Philippians 2:1-13

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 22, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & John Fox

HOSPITALIZED:

Gorge Kirk – Akron City

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert & Patsy Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Gerald Lewis Gus Mercurio Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Barb Cully and family on the death of her husband, member Tom Cully on 1/6.

Sharon Minier and family on the death of her brother, Skip Higley on 12/23.

Candance Culbertson and family on the death of her mother, Helen Louise Culbertson on 12/27.