

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 5, 2023**

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

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***Prelude** – Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness (Hymn 612)- J.S. Bach*

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Matthew 5:13-20, Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 22:36-40, Luke 10:27 written by Rev. Mindi)

We are called to bring a new understanding of God:  
that God so loves the world.

**We are the salt of the earth.**

We are called to bring a new hope in God:  
that God gives us new life.

**We are the light of the world.**

We are called to follow  
the commandments and the law.

**The Law of God is to love God  
and to love one another.**

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,  
the light of the world.

**Come, let us love one another  
with the love of God.**

Let us join together in our love of God  
to worship and follow Jesus.

**Opening Hymn No. 154\*\* - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

*All hail the power of Jesus' name!*

*Let angels prostrate fall;*

*bring forth the royal diadem,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Bring forth the royal diadem,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,*

*ye ransomed from the fall,*

*hail him who saves you by his grace,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Hail him who saves you by his grace,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,*

*go spread your trophies at his feet,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Go spread your trophies at his feet,*

*and crown him Lord of all.*

*Let every kindred, every tribe  
on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.*

*Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call;  
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,  
and crown him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.*

***Invocation***

**God of mystery and of judgment,  
who has made us to be salt and light  
in a tasteless, shadowed world,  
guide us in this time of worship.  
Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment  
so that others may see your good works through us,  
give you the glory,  
and be moved to serve you. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION**

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

***Scripture Reading - Psalm 112:1-10***

Praise the LORD!

Happy are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures for ever.  
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.  
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.  
For the righteous will never be moved;

they will be remembered for ever.  
They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.  
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.  
They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures for ever;  
their horn is exalted in honour.  
The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.  
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 5:13-20***

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### ***Anthem***

8:30 - *Who is the One* - Craig Courtney

*Who is the One who bids us come together? Who is the One whose presence fills this place? Who is the One who spreads a feast before us, His own beloved to partake? Who is the One, who acting in humility, emptied himself, took on the form of man? Who is the One who trod the path of suffering, who took our place that we might live? Who is the One possessing all authority? Who is the One who speaks and stars appear? Who is the One who holds all things together, and is Himself before all things? Who is the One who reigns o'er all victorious? Who is the One who sits upon the the throne? Who is the One who went before us, to come again and*

*take us home? He is the Lord of hosts. He is the great "I AM." He is Almighty God. He is the One among us now.*

11:00 - *Come, All Who Thirst* - Luigi Cherubini

*Come, all who thirst, come to the waters. You that have no money, buy and eat without a price. Listen, come to me and your soul shall live. My love is ever true.*

**Sermon** – God's Promise of Guidance

Pastor Karol Lewis

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

#### ***Apostle's Creed***

***I 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***

***Offertory*** - *O Food to Pilgrims Given* (Hymn 631) - Johannes Brahms

*(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.**

***Communion*** (Hymnal p. 12)

#### **INVITATION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

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 forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

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

***Closing Hymn No. 529\*\* - How Firm a Foundation***

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,*

*my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

***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*** - *Since I Have Been Redeemed* - Charles Callahan

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

in loving memory of her sister, Dee Vittorella by Ed and Judy Jesson;

in loving memory of her cousin, Kathy Zrelak by Ed and Judy Jesson.

**Liturgist:**

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir;

**Music:** One License A-731491

## CHURCH NOTES

**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.

**Ushers:** We are looking for folks who would be willing to serve as ushers for the 11:00 service beginning the first Sunday in Lent (February 26.) It's an easy, but very necessary way of serving the church. It consists of passing out bulletins, helping folks to their seats if necessary, and passing the offering plates. Please contact Linda Demeter (740-334-9290) or the church office if you feel you'd like to serve in this way.

**Wednesday Men's Group:** Any men of the church and community are invited to attend the Wednesday Night Men's Group. It is modeled after John Wesley's "Class Meetings." They meet every other Wednesday from 7-8 pm in the parlor and **the next meeting will be on February 8.** Their purpose is to make themselves better disciples for Christ. They also have occasional group outings for their families. You may just come for the next meeting or if you would like more information you may contact Tom Hammonds at 330-322-8758.

**Lenten Studies:** We are offering two Lenten studies this year.

***The Practice of the Presence of God*** by Brother Lawrence, will be the basis of the first study. We will use it to explore a life of worship. It will be led by Pastor Karol and done with the New Fellowship Sunday School class. It will begin on Sunday, February 26 at 9:45 a.m. and last for 6 weeks.

**A joint study** with our two neighboring churches will begin on Monday, January 27, at 7 p.m. It will take place at St. John's Episcopal and will be led by our 3 pastors and the pastors at the other 2 churches. It will last for 5 weeks.

We hope that you will join us for one or both of these studies. You may sign up on the pew pad. For questions, please contact Pastor Karol.

**Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast:** On Sunday, February 19, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the scouts from Troop 152 will serve a delicious breakfast as a thank you to the church for its continued support. The meal will be free of charge, although donations would be gladly accepted. Join us for this much enjoyed and much missed tradition.

**Wesley Outing:** The rained-out Ice Skating Outing for the Wesley Youth is going to be rescheduled for later this month. Complete details should be available this coming Sunday. Be sure to check the Parent Letter which goes out via email on Saturday.

**Febru“wear”y Sock Mission:** In the month of Febru “wear”y, The Acts of Grace Circle invites you to donate new socks which will be distributed to the folks who come to our monthly First Church Feeds. You may put the socks in the bin beside the church library.

**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.

**Vacation Bible School:** We are starting to plan for our Vacation Bible School this summer and are looking for people who are interested in spending time with our children either as a teacher or helper. We have a wide variety of different activities and opportunities for you to use your talents in this service. Please contact Donna Curfman for more information or to volunteer. VBS will take place from June 19 - 23 and there are morning sessions for preschool through 4th grade, a SERVE program of field trips and mission projects for 5th and 6th graders, and an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips called EXTREME. Complete details are coming soon.

**Teacher Appreciation Brunch...** We would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to all those who have served in our Discipleship ministries this past year with our adults, youth and children as teachers, leaders and helpers by inviting you to Brunch reception on February 12 in the parlor from 9:15am to 11:15am. We have set the time so that those who attend or teach a class on Sunday can come before or after. Those who teach or lead at other times are welcome during the Sunday School hour. We will have light refreshments and share about the gift that is being made in your honor to ZOE ministries to help empower children of households to be able to provide for their siblings in Africa and India.



## Next Steps

### God's Promise of Guidance

We get \_\_\_\_\_ from scripture and by following it we are \_\_\_\_\_.

By giving up what we think is \_\_\_\_\_ we find what is \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith without \_\_\_\_\_ is dead.

Good works are not done as \_\_\_\_\_ but because our \_\_\_\_\_ is pulled to them.

"Just \_\_\_\_\_ It!" \_\_\_\_\_ Barker

Food is \_\_\_\_\_ made edible.

We all have a \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for the common good.

**Questions for Reflection:** What good works come easy to you or do you enjoy? What is the biggest thing that keeps you from doing good works?

**Questions for Discussion:** What good works does our church do well? Where new good works could you see our church doing? Where could see yourself and your friends doing good works? What ways could we shine our light and be the salt to our neighbors and co-workers?

**Memory Verse: James 2:17** So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**Readings for next week:** James 2:14-26; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Psalm 119:1-10; Deuteronomy 30:15-30

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
FEBRUARY 5, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & John Fox

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**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 Phil Hennen	Jane Krejci Gerald Lewis Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Nancy Yeager & family on the death of her father, member George Kirk on 1/21.

Marlene Mercurio & family on the death of her husband, member Gus Mercurio on 1/22.