

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

November 12, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - Holy, Holy, Holy

Introit - Come, Let Us Sing! - Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship

Tell the timid to take heart.

The Lord our God will come!

We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains
and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

Opening Hymn 79 - Holy God We Praise Thy Name (vs 1-4)**

*Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee;
all on earth thy scepter claim;
all in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain;
everlasting is thy reign.*

*Hark the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.*

*Lo! the apostolic train
joins thy sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow.
And from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.*

*Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit: three we name thee,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim thee,
and adoring bend the knee
while we own the mystery.*

Invocation

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts on us than we are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem - Come Find His Rest - Dan Forrest

Come weary one, leave thy labors
Come lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend
His arms are opened wide
O soul, be satisfied
Come find His rest
Take His yoke upon thee,
For He is gentle and lowly in heart
So learn from Christ the Lord –
Thy Portion and Reward.
Come find His rest

I heard the voice of Jesus say
"Come unto me and rest
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:1-7a

Of David.

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

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

Gloria Patri (sung)

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.

Children's Anthem - *Guide Us, Lord* - Mark Patterson

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way, trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray: Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly, help us follow you more nearly day by day. Guide us, Lord we pray. Guide us through these days, O Lord, help us to seek your way, seeking wisdom from your word, strengthen our tender faith. When we stray and fall to sin, help us find your path again; draw us closer in your fellowship of love.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 2:11-20

So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. Then I got up during the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the animal I rode. I went out by night by the Valley Gate past the Dragon's Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool; but there was no place for the animal I was riding to continue. So I went up by way of the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest that were to do the work.

Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.' I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, 'Let us start building!' So they committed themselves to the common good. But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, 'What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?' Then I replied to them, 'The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.'

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

Sermon - *God Will Give Us Success*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 550** - *Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
perfecting the saints below,
hear us, who thy nature share,
who thy mystic body are.

Join us, in one spirit join,
let us still receive of thine;
still for more on thee we call,
thou who fillest all in all.

Move and actuate and guide,
diverse gifts to each divide;
placed according to thy will,
let us all our work fulfill;

Never from thy service move,
needful to each other prove;
use the grace on each bestowed,
tempered by the art of God.

Many are we now, and one,
we who Jesus have put on;
there is neither bond nor free,
male nor female, Lord, in thee.

Love, like death, hath all destroyed,
rendered all distinctions void;
names and sects and parties fall;
thou, O Christ, art all in all!

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *Holy, Holy, Holy* - Charles Callahan

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 438 - Forth in Thy Name, O Lord**

*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.*

*The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.*

*Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine in-most substance see,
and labor on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.*

*For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.*

Benediction and Response - Into the Coming Days - Schram

Postlude - Work, For the Night is Coming - Seth Bingham



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;
in loving memory of Jim, Carol and Ken Kimble, by Jim and Pam Kimble.

The anthem, *Come Find His Rest*, was given in memory of Mary Tunstall by family and friends.

The children's anthem, *Guide Us, Lord* was given in honor of Dean Wagner by the Wesley and Epworth Choirs.

Service Music: Wesley Ringers; Wesley Choir; Chancel and Epworth Choirs

Music: One License A-731491

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving.

NEXT STEPS

The Trouble They Were In

vs. 14 – Jerusalem’s walls lay in waste for 130 years

God works through those who can see what’s not right

God Will Give Us Success

vs. 20 – Nehemiah’s mission was a God-sized task

First Church is on God’s mission, not our own

Questions for Reflection: How am I a part of God’s mission in my community and through church? How might God be planning to use my gifts to meet the needs that I see in the world around me?

Question for Discussion: What is one thing in our community that you could make better through your time and gifts?

Memory Verse: *Nehemiah 2:20* – “The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building.”

Readings for this Week: Nehemiah 3, Romans 12

CHURCH NOTES

Christmas Bags: Tonight all are welcome to join the children as they pack Christmas bags for the children of our Food Distribution recipients and Preston Elementary school. We will start packing at 4:00 with the Epworth Youth and continue until 7 p.m.. Children in the Bethlehem and Wesley choirs will pack after they have music rehearsals and dinner.

Holiday Nuts: The nut sale is back! You may purchase them between and after services on Sundays, in the office during the week, or you may pre-order and pick them up on the Sunday of your choice. We have Deluxe Mixed, whole cashews (both at \$10/lb.) and raw pecans (\$12/lb.) You may drop your order form off at the Welcome Center. Proceeds will benefit Work Camp.

ThankSinging Hymn Festival: Join us on Sunday, November 19, at 6 p.m., as Dean Wagner and Friends present a concert of hymns to benefit Flat Rock Homes, a community for the intellectually and developmentally disabled. An offering will be taken during intermission. All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of music.

Acme Receipts: Remember to turn in your Acme receipts dated from August 1. All proceeds from the Cashback program go towards Work Camp.

OPEN M Christmas Gifts: OPEN M is no longer doing the Giving Tree, instead they are asking for donations for children. You may make a check out to First Church with OPEN M in the memo and turn it in to the office, or you may go to www.openm.org/christmas and follow the instructions.

Christmas for Good Neighbors: Good Neighbors has begun their holiday drive in order to provide gift bags for the children they serve. Items they are requesting are winter-themed reading books, coloring books, sticker books, and puzzles. They would like to have an such donations by early November.

Upcoming Children's Events: Sunday, December 3, will be our annual Advent celebration at ROCK. The children will prepare candles for Christmas Eve services, make cards for shut-ins, color mandalas and create a craft. Registration is required and will close on November 27. Then on December 10 you are invited to the Santa Brunch held during Sunday school. Both of these activities require reservations which you may make at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

OPEN M Turkeys: We have committed to providing 200 turkeys for the Christmas baskets given to Akron area families by OPEN M. You may sign up to donate a frozen turkey or to make a donation of \$20. Money is due by December 1 and the frozen turkeys will be collected in our parking lot on Saturday, December 9 from 8-10.

___ I will donate \$20 toward the purchase of a turkey.

___ I will donate a turkey

Name _____

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 12, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Becky Folsom – Akron City

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Scott Hipkins
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Debbie Amundsen	Jack Nitzsche
Glenn Atwood	Pat Park
Behrman family	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Christina Shaw
Bill & Janet Blank	Martha Shoults
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall
Larry Brimlow	

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Brent (Christy) Meyers & family on the death of his father, Carl Hamilton on 11/5.