

Third Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

January 21, 2024

GATHERING

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

Prelude - Chorale Prelude on "Morecambe" - Robert Elmore

Introit - Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

Call to Worship

So Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off

and peace to those who were near;

For through him all of us have access

In one Spirit to God the Creator of all.

*Opening Hymn 159*** - Lift High the Cross

Invocation - Prayer of St. Clement

We beg you, Master,

be our help and strength.

Save those among us who are oppressed,

have pity on the lowly, and lift up the fallen.

Heal the sick, bring back the straying, and feed the hungry.

Release those in prison, steady those who falter, and strengthen the fainthearted.

**Let all nations come to know you, the one God, with your Son Jesus Christ,
and us your people and sheep of your pasture.**

Grant us and all who dwell on this earth peace and harmony, O Lord.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Psalm 114 (Old Testament p.563/532)

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. Amen.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - Didn't My Lord deliver Daniel - Emerson

Scripture Reading - Romans 14:10-21 (New Testament p. 163/152)

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

Sermon - Hearts at Peace

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 420 - Breathe on me Breath of God**

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Awake My Heart - Jane Marshall
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

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 500 - Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Has thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find.*

*Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.*

Benediction and Response

Postlude - *Prelude in C Major* - J.S. Bach



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

What's At Stake

vs. 6 – the Roman church was in _____ over _____ and meat
conflict meets our needs to “be _____ as” and feel _____

Hearts at Peace

vs. 1 – to have a _____ at peace, let opinions be opinions, not _____

vs. 20 – avoid _____ your conscience before others

vs. 13 – don't _____ others whose conscience leads _____

Let It Go

vs. 13 - the need to _____ justified prevents _____ with others

Rom. 13:8b - ... for the one who _____ another has fulfilled the _____

Questions for Reflection: Our own needs to feel justified or to be seen in certain ways by others can affect our relationships with others. Things that I say or do can be motivated by wanting to feel justified in a choice I have made. What things that I say or do are motivated by my need to be seen in certain ways? How might I redirect this energy toward loving the people closest to me?

Question for Discussion: Have you opted to refrain from doing something that you found permissible but was causing a Christian sister or brother to struggle? Perhaps around alcohol or the media we consume. Was this helpful to the other person? What did you lose through refraining?

Memory Verse: Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Readings for this Week: Romans 8:1-4, Romans 13:8-14, Ephesians 4:1-16

CHURCH NOTES

Children's Ministries: Evening Children's Activities will begin again this evening. Bell rehearsals are at 4:00 p.m., choirs are at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner and ROCK activities including the Wesley Youth Group until 7:00 p.m. Please come join us as we begin our winter session.

Thinking about joining First Church? We want to help you get connected through our Discipleship Pathway. Discovery, our first class, begins today at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. It will be led by Pastor Jon. Come and discover who we are as a denomination and local church serving this community. Feel free to join us!

Hats, Gloves, Scarves Mission: We have started our annual mission now that winter is here. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, scarves, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church library. 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.

Dean Wagner Organ Recital: Join us on Friday, January 26, at 7 p.m. for an organ recital by our own Dean Wagner. His program will include *March on the Old Hundredth* (Brenda Portman), *Prelude and Fugue in C* (J.S. Bach), *Jig for the Feet* (William Alright), *Romanza* from *Symphony 5* (Ralph Vaughan Williams), and more.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 21, 2024**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Jim Beebe – Akron City

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Linda Demeter
Bob Ahonen	Mary Griest
Debbie Amundsen	Lee Minier
Glenn Atwood	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Martha Shoults
Bill & Janet Blank	Karen Taucher
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Judy Jesson and family on the death of her aunt, Millie Cochran on 1/15.

Patt Combs and family on the death of her husband, member Ed Combs, on 12/23.