

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

February 4, 2024

GATHERING

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

Prelude - Sonata #1: Allegro - Felix Mendelssohn

"What my God wants, may it always happen, his will is what is best."

Introit - Taste and See - James Moore

Call to Worship

The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

The Risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

Opening Hymn 559** - *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

*Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy faithful loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.*

*Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.*

Invocation

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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 - *Know That the Lord is God* - G.F. Handel

Know ye now that the Lord He is God.

It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves.

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Know ye now that the Lord He is God.

It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves.

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 43:18-21

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

Sermon – *Always Reforming*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 549** - *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Where charity and love prevail,

there God is ever found;

Brought here together by Christ's love,

by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear

true charity we learn;

Let us with heart and mind and soul

now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults

as we our faults confess;

And let us love each other well

in Christian holiness.

*Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek,
be ours His holy peace.*

*Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
As members of His body joined,
we are in Him made one.*

*No race or creed can love exclude,
if honored be God's name;
Our common life embraces all
whose Maker is the same.*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Total Praise - Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills Knowing my help is coming from You Your peace You give me in time of the storm You are the source of my strength You are the strength of my life I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.

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

Communion Hymn - FWS #2267 - Taste and See

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Closing Hymn 557 - Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,*

our comforts and our cares.

*We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

*When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.*

Benediction and Response - *Sevenfold Amen* - K. Lee Scott

Postlude - *Sonata #1: Allegro assai vivace* - Mendelssohn



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

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

Service Music: Epworth; Josiah and Kristen van Dyck, oboe and violin; Chancel Choir, Phil Lantry, piano, Neil Lantry, drums; Sue Poling, soloist

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

To Everything a Season

Who among us actually likes _____?

Ecclesiastes 3:2 – all the _____ in our lives _____ and go

Semper Reformanda; Always Reforming

The Church is a _____ body, always _____ to its mission

Isaiah 43:19 – We must always _____ for God on the _____!

Questions for Reflection: How do I personally deal with change? How might I refocus myself from the things that are changing to the possibilities that are opening up through change?

Question for Discussion: When have you experienced a change that ended up differently than you expected? How might God's hand have been involved?

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 43:19a* – “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Readings for this Week: Revelation 21:1-5, Isaiah 54:1-4, Philippians 4:

CHURCH NOTES

Greeters Needed: Though the weather has been cold, it always warms the heart to see a friendly face greet you on Sunday morning! We need greeters for February 11 and 25. If you are able to greet on one of these Sundays, please call Kim Kerr at 330-606-7736.

Youth Pasta Dinner: All are invited to the annual Pasta Dinner which helps fund the Epworth Choir's Spring Tour. It will take place **THIS Friday, February 9**, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-10 and free for children 3 and under. Tickets are available from any Epworth youth and in the church office.

Phil Lantry in Concert: This Friday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. First Church will host the Phil Lantry Quintet. It will be a delightful mix of jazz stylings! You can make a night of it with the pasta dinner in Wesley Hall followed by the concert in the sanctuary.

Preston Spring Break Backpacks: We are bringing back the tradition of providing lunches for 60 children at Preston Elementary School during their Spring Break starting the week of March 25. You can help by providing food products to place in these bags. Our Preston Backpack Board will be in the Breezeway starting February 11, and we request that all items be returned by March 10 so the children at ROCK can pack the bags on the 17. Feel free to take a tag or more and help us. Drop off your items in the tote behind the Welcome Center.

Acme Receipts: The Acme Cashback program is about to wind down, but continue to save your receipts dated through February 15! This is an easy way to help fund the projects that are done at Henderson Settlement in June.

Hats, Gloves, Scarves Mission: 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.

Weekday Christian Preschool Registration Open: We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2024. 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. We have both half and full day classes. Please call 330-923-5243 for more information.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
FEBRUARY 4, 2024**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Donna Curfman – Akron City Bill Blank – Akron General

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

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

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Robin Ruth and family on the death of her grandson, Kei Nell on 2/1.

Harvey and Nockengost families on the death of their mother and grandmother, member Edna Harvey on 1/30.

James Hurd and family on the death of his wife, member Joan Hurd on 1/18.