

Third Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m.

March 3, 2024

GATHERING

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

Prelude - *Rhosymedre* (FWS 2083) - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Introit - *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* - Tim Zuschin

Call to Worship

God's mercy floods over us.

Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

God's love pours into us.

Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.

Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart today.

Be with me, Lord, and guide my life. AMEN

Opening Hymn FWS 2083** - *My Song Is Love Unknown*

My song is love unknown,

my Savior's love to me,

love to the loveless shown,

that they might lovely be.

O who am I, that for my sake

my God should take frail flesh and die?

My God should take frail flesh and die?

God left the richest throne

salvation to bestow;

but Christ as flesh and bone

the world refused to know,

But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed,

who at my need His life did spend. did life expend;

who at my need did life expend.

Sometimes they threw down palms

and sweetest praises sang.

Hosannas and glad psalms

through streets and markets rang.

Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,

for blood and death they thirst and cry;

for blood and death they thirst and cry.

What has my Sovereign done?

What makes this rage and spite?

Christ gave new strength to run,

*restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise;
themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.*

*I sing my plain belief,
one song my heart out-pours:
never was pain nor grief,
never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend;
I all my days could gladly spend.*

Invocation

Our souls are troubled, Holy One, until they find their rest in you. When we live in fear of our mortality, help us face the future unafraid. Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit." In our living and in our dying, draw us together with all your people. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:9-16

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 - Kyrie Eleison - Josef Haydn

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Scripture Reading - John 12:20-33

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

Sermon - *A Single Grain or Much Fruit?*

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *From an Upper Room* - Joseph Martin

(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.

Communion (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn 298** - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Benediction and Response - Amen - Peter Lutkin

Postlude - *Fantasia in g minor* - J.S. Bach



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

Service Music: Epworth Choir; Chancel Choir

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

If you want to see Jesus, you must look at the cross.

23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

If you want to see Jesus, you must die to self and bear fruit.

24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain,

We can see Jesus because He did not resist the cross.

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

Questions for Reflection: What does the cross of Jesus Christ mean to you? When you see Jesus what do you see?

Questions for Discussion: What are some ways our church is bearing fruit?

Memory Verse: 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor."

Readings for this week: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 • Psalm 22:23-31 • Romans 4:13-25 • Mark 8:31-38

CHURCH NOTES

East Ohio Summer Camps: It's time to register for the 2024 East Ohio Conference Summer Camps. The Early Bird deadline is March 15 and that will give you a \$25 discount and the opportunity to be in a drawing for free registration. In addition, this year First Church is able to offer a \$300 campership for anyone attending. There are also scholarships available to application through the Conference. Our district, Northern Waters, is still finalizing their policy, and we will keep you updated if that materializes. This is a great year to attend, so don't delay. Next Sunday is Camp Sunday and we will give you more information about what the camps offer.

Preston Spring Break Backpacks: The donation board for backpacks is up in the Breezeway. Please help us fill backpacks for children from Preston Elementary School for their spring break by taking a card from the board and returning the requested items. All items should be delivered to the church by Sunday, March 10, so that the children at ROCK can pack them on March 17.

Solar Eclipse Program: On Wednesday, March 13, at 10:30 in Wesley Hall, Bob Boltz will present a program about the upcoming eclipse in April. Bob taught Earth Science for 35 years and knows this subject well. Susannah Circle welcomes anyone interested to join them for the program. Questions? Call Bob or Sue Boltz at 330-928-8635.

Montgomery Scholarship Applicants: Applications for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship may be picked up at the main office any Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The deadline for returning the application is Friday, April 5. An applicant must be a member of First Church and a high school graduate planning to be enrolled in college or technical school this coming fall for the 2024-25 school year.

All Day Silent Communion: If you can't make the Maundy Thursday service, you may come to First Church between 8:30 am and 4 pm on March 28 for Silent Communion in the Sanctuary.

Easter Egg Hunt: Please support our community Easter Egg Hunt, which will be on Saturday, March 23, at 11 a.m., by providing bags of individually wrapped candy (no peanuts please) or small toys for us to pass out. All items need to be delivered to the Welcome Center by March 17.

Lenten Bible Study: It's not too late to attend the Lenten Bible study, *Bend*, which is being offered by the pastors of Church Square. It takes place on Mondays at 7 pm at Pilgrim UCC on Broad Blvd. Join us!

Multipling Love: Join us for a study on the book *Multipling Love* by Dr. Paul Chilcote. In the book he shows us how we can find new vision and vitality through an orientation, or reorientation, to the values and understanding of the Christian faith that have mad Methodism a force for so much good in the world over its history.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
MARCH 3, 2024**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Dorothy Light – Akron City Jack Holforty – Akron General

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Jim Henes
Bob Ahonen	Kathy Jackson
Debbie Amundsen	Lew King
Jim Beebe	Kathi Sawyer
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Martha Shoults
Linda Demeter	Karen Taucher
Mary Griest	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Family of member Howard Dias on his passing on 2/27.

Betty Douglas, Linda Brooks and family on the death of their sister, Beverly Martin on 2/19.

Lee Minier and family on the death of his wife, member Sharon Minier on 2/20.

Janet Blank and family on the death of her husband, member Bill Blank on 2/12.

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