

## Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

April 14, 2024

### GATHERING

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

*Prelude - Processional - Martin Shaw*

*Introit - Rejoice! Rejoice! - Stan Pethel*

#### **Call to Worship**

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
**made like him, like him we rise;**  
following our exalted Head;  
**ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**

#### **Opening Hymn No. 139\*\* – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration! 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining. God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining? 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;" surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee. 4 Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee. 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him..*

#### **Invocation**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**  
**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**  
**where there is injury, pardon;**  
**where there is doubt, faith;**  
**where there is despair, hope;**  
**where there is darkness, light;**  
**and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.**  
**For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**  
**Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

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

#### **Scripture Lesson**

Psalm 66:16-20

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.**

**God's Word for Young Disciples**

**Anthem** - *How Firm a Foundation* - Paul Koch

**Scripture Lesson**

Acts 17:22-31

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

**Sermon** – *Seeing Gray in a Black and White World*

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response No. 431\*\*** - *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;*

*let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God our creator, children all are we.*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.*

*With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:*

*To take each moment and live each moment*

*in peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - *Awake My Heart* - Jane Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render,

To God thy sure defender,

Thy Maker, thy preserver,

A song of love and fervor.

Confirm my deeds and guide me:

My day, with thee beside me,

Beginning, middle, ending,

Will all be upward tending.

My heart shall be thy dwelling,

With joy and gladness swelling;

Thy word my nature giv'n

To bring me on toward heaven.

**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 and 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*

**Hymn No. 430\*\*** - *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

*O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong;*

*In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

**Benediction** - *May the Lord Watch Over You* - Ruth Schram

**Postlude** - *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* - Johann Gottfried Walther



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

in honor of Emmaus Walks 103;

in honor of Family Promise of Summit County by Tom and Kathy Jackson.

**Service Music:** Epworth and Chancel Choirs

**Music:** One License A-731491

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **Christ Against Culture**

Loyalty to Jesus demands resistance to secular culture

James 1:27 – true religion is... to keep oneself unstained by the world

Our soil is at its best when the weeds are pulled

### **Christ of Culture**

Acts 17:23 – Jesus is the revelation of humanity’s unknown gods

Matthew 13:29-30 – God doesn’t want the weeds pulled

There’s no need to resist secular culture, it will produce Christ

### **Turn, Turn, Turn**

Life is not black or white; far more often it’s gray

Christians use both approaches at different times in our lives

Questions for Reflection: Think of some modern cultural issues that are debated among Christians like marriage, guns, female clergy, charity, or the accumulation of wealth. Do you find that you approach all of these from the same moral view? Or do you resist some culture and accept other culture? Do you notice any patterns in which approach you use for which issues?

Question for Discussion: How good are you at seeing both sides of an argument? What benefits come from this? What downsides are there to this skill?

Memory Verse: Eccl. 3:1 *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”*

Readings for this Week: Matthew 13:1-43, Matthew 5:13-18

## CHURCH NOTES

**We Need You!** The International Welcome Center is a local agency that works with the State department to resettle refugees. This year, they'll begin welcoming six to eight families whose refugee status has been granted. We're being asked to provide a team of 4-6 people who are willing to welcome these new persons to the US and journey with them as they make their house a home, find a job, and get their children enrolled in school. Email Pastor Pippin (fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com) right away if you are interested in being part of this team!

**New Handbell Choir:** Do you love seeing the handbells on Sunday mornings? Here is your chance to play them. Dean Wagner is putting together a new handbell choir for beginning to intermediate players. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. The beginning date yet to be determined. Please contact Dean at Ext. 221 or email him at hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com. <mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com>

**Vacation Bible School:** Registration is now open for Camp Firelight VBS on June 17-21. Register online at <https://fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or get a flyer from the office or Welcome Center. VBS is from 9 - 12 for children aged 3 (by 9/24/24) - 4<sup>th</sup> grade. SERVE is at the same time for grades 5-6, and the afternoon Extreme program is from 12-5.

**Chess Camp is returning this year!** The program for children going into grades K and up will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center, in the church office and on our website.

**Calling All Seniors!** If you or your child is a senior in high school, please call the church office and let us know so that we don't miss honoring someone on Senior Sunday - May 19.

**Work Camp:** Each year a group of adults and youth from First Church go to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. There they take on projects for the folks who live there: painting, roofing, repairing. Helping these folks is a wonderfully rewarding experience. This year Work Camp will take place June 2 - 8. If you are interested in going, or just want more information, please contact Jack Steele at 330-697-8344.

**Annual Golf Outing:** It is time to mark your calendars again for the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on June 22 at 1:30. You may play in the event for \$90. We will be seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels. As always, we thank you for your support in this our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please feel free to share this with the other churches.

**Volunteer Groups:** In February, Pastor Jon shared that we had begun some discussions with our neighbors on Church Square (St. John's Episcopal and First Christian) about collaborating more closely and potentially redeveloping the block to more faithfully and effectively meet the needs of our community. We are ready to begin some of these conversations in earnest this spring and summer. We will have three teams of members of each congregation; a Prayer Team, an

Admin/Legal Team, and a Real Estate Re-Development Team. So that each congregation is represented equally in the groups, we may not be able to bring everyone on yet who is interested. There will be more places to provide input as the project would proceed this fall. However, if you are interested in participating in the groups forming this spring, please let me know at fallsfirstjon@gmail.com.

**Grief Group Forming:** Have you recently or not so recently experienced the loss of a loved one and are looking for support? We are forming a grief recovery group this summer. Please express your interest to Pastor Pippin or by calling the church office.

### **ANTHEMS**

**Awake My Heart** - Jane Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render,  
To God thy sure defender,  
Thy Maker, thy preserver,  
A song of love and fervor.

Confirm my deeds and guide me:  
My day, with thee beside me,  
Beginning, middle, ending,  
Will all be upward tending.

My heart shall be thy dwelling,  
With joy and gladness swelling;  
Thy word my nature giv'n  
To bring me on toward heaven.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
APRIL 14, 2024**



**HOSPITALIZED:**

Jeff Iula – Akron City

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Jim Henes
Bob Ahonen	Kathy Jackson
Debbie Amundsen	Lew King
Jim Beebe	Lee Minier
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Kathi Sawyer
Don Corbett	Bonnie Shultz
Mary Griest	Karen & Michael Taucher
John Gullion	Ken Tunstall

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Doug Koch and family on the death of his father, Bob Koch on 4/9.

Paul Waller and family on the death of his father, Dr. Forrest Waller on 3/31.

Jen LaFleur and family on the death of her mother, Diane Weaver on 4/3.