

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

in loving memory of Charles and Naomi Putman, by Joan Bowles and family.

Music—One License A-731491

**Please stand as you are able.

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

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Sunday Worship Service and Live-streaming at 10:45 am.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 am

February 23, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements—

Prelude—*Be Thou My Vision*—Hal Hopson

Call to Worship—

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you

and we will be Christ's witnesses

In Jerusalem, in all Judea,

in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Opening Hymn 181—***Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Invocation (please be seated)—

Almighty God, you sent your son, Jesus, on a mission to earth to seek and save the lost, healing and teaching as he went: renew your calling to this same mission in us, that we may teach and heal as you seek and save the lost through us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading— Psalm 30:10-12

Gloria Patri—*Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

Gods Word for Young Disciples

Anthem—*Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven*—Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir
Dudley Turner, soloist

Scripture Readings—*Luke 9:1-6*

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

Sermon—*"You Are Now Entering the Mission Field"*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 593—***Here I Am Lord*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*Amazing Grace*—Hal Hopson

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.

Prayer 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 580—***Lead On, O King Eternal*

Benediction—*Shalom to You Now* (Hymnal p. 666)—

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude—*All Creatures of Our God and King*— Hal Hopson

—continued

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #181, Ye Servants of God, your Master Proclaim

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol,
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save,
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.
3. "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
4. Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might;
all honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

GLORIA PATRI

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #593, Here I Am Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send? (Chorus)

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? (Chorus)

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #580, Lead On , O King Eternal

1. Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.
2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.
3. Lead on, O King eternal,
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	Lee Minier
Bob Ahonen	Becky & Jerry Pecko
Joanne Ames	Becky Petty
Debbie Amundsen	Robbie Robinson
Mary Ellen Atwood	Holly Ross
Dorothy Bates	Kathi Sawyer
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Todd Schneider
Suzanne Callahan	Kathy Walker
Mary Griest	Bette Wenk
Jeff Iula	Marcus Wilson
Lilly Kennedy	Mike Yeager
Dwight Konic	Rose Ann Youngkin
Judy Lewis	Tim Zuschin
Marge Magee	

In our greater world: We lift up small business owners. We lift up Twinsburg Faith UMC and Wedgewood UMC.

CHURCH NOTES 2-23-25

Bronze Fest Handbells: You are invited to a concert today @3:30pm at the Windemere CLC, 2283 Windemere Ave. 44312, to hear a marvelous handbell concert featuring 6 handbell choirs from Ohio and Michigan, and under the direction of the world’s finest handbell director, Fred Gramann (France). Our own Chancel Ringers is one of the featured choirs and will be playing Dean’s famous piece, “Te Deum.” This concert is held every 2 years at different locations. We are blessed this year that the concert is in our own back yard. A free will offering will be taken to support the festival.

Acme Receipts: The last day to turn in Community Cash Back/Acme receipts is February 26. All intact Acme receipts with CCB dated Aug. 1-Feb. 15 are valid. Thank you for supporting 2025 Work Camp.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday: First Christian Church (next door) will host this year’s Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service @7:00pm on March 5. Hope to see you there.

Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser: benefitting Epworth Choir’s *Spring Tour*. Saturday, March 15, from 4:30 to 7:00pm. The University of Akron choir will be here for a special performance after the meal. 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. See an Epworth choir member or stop by the church office to purchase tickets.

Men’s Time Out: All the men of the church and community are invited to gather on the Saturday, March 1 for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! It runs from 8:30 to 9:30am in Asbury Hall.

Easter Flowers: It’s time to order Easter flowers. The list of donors, as well as those honored/ memorialized will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please make your check out to *First Church* and return it with the order form below by Monday, March 24 @noon. The cost is \$10 per plant. Be sure to indicate which type and the number of plants you would like. Thank you!

<input type="checkbox"/> Tulips	Name: _____	Phone: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinths	In <i>memory</i> or <i>honor</i> of: (please circle one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lilies	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Daffodils	_____	

Not Even an Extra Tunic

vs. 3 – What were the disciples supposed to use to do ministry?

Scarcity, and the fear of failure, are the enemies of Jesus’s mission

You Are Now Entering the Mission Field

vs. 6 – The mission of Jesus isn’t in a far-off land

each week, Jesus sends us out to heal and tell of him

Questions for Reflection:

Who in my life needs the healing hope and love that I have received from Jesus?

Have I allowed myself to receive these things from Jesus?

What am I uniquely gifted to do that brings healing and hope to others?

Questions for Discussion:

When Jesus sent his disciples out on his mission, they didn’t have to travel far.

In the places where you spend the most of your time, how can you communicate the good news of God’s reign on earth and the healing that Jesus brings?

Memory Verse:

Luke 9:2 – “and he sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal.”

Readings for this Week:

Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:13-53

Spring Tour Donations: Epworth choir could use some help funding our tour this year. The cost of hotels (churches no longer house us), food, and bussing continue to rise. Please consider a gift to help us make up the difference. You can earmark your check to First Church with “tour” and mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate. Thank you for considering! —Dean Wagner