

Postlude

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given in loving memory of Gerald Lewis, by Carol Lewis.

Music—One License A-731491

Organist—A special thank you to our guest organist, Andrea Alexander, for providing music for worship today.

Anthem Lyrics—*Behold the Lamb*—Rambo/Clydesdale

Behold the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice, behold the Lamb. Crown Him! Worthy is the Lamb! Praises! Heaven and earth resound.

**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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STEADFAST LOVE

March 23, 2025



“My Soul Clings to You”

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CUYAHOGA FALLS
10:45AM WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Lent

10:45 am

March 23, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Introit—Lead Me Lord

Call to Worship—

A rich feast awaits those who call upon the Lord.

God offers to us all the bounty of God's love.

How we have thirsted for hope and peace!

How we have longed for joy and love!

God continually blesses and heals us.

Praise be to God for God's steadfast love. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn 64**—Holy, Holy, Holy*

Invocation (please be seated)—

Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading— Isaiah 55:1-9

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

God's Word for Young Disciples

*Anthem—Behold the Lamb—*Rambo/Clydesdale

Chancel Choir

Scripture Readings—Psalm 63:1-8

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

Sermon—"My Soul Clings to You"

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 397—***I Need Thee Every Hour*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory

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 301—***Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Benediction 668—***Let Us Now Depart In Thy Peace*

—continued

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #TFWS 2009, O God Beyond All Praising

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and
sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

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 #397, I Need Thee Every Hour

1. I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.
Refrain:
I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.
2. I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
(Refrain)
3. I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
(Refrain)
4. I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.
(Refrain)
5. I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
(Refrain)

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #301, Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.

(Refrain)

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.

(Refrain)

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

Hymn #668, Let Us Now Depart In Thy Peace

1. Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus.
Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts.
Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties.
Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of thee.

NEXT STEPS

My Soul Clings to You

David is in the midst of a trial

According to the inscription, this Psalm is connected to David "when he was in the wilderness of Judah." What trials are you going through today?

David chooses to seek after God

In the midst of his trial he prays, "1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." How and what have you prayed when you are facing trials?

In the midst of it all David's faith is renewed

This comes from his encounters with God in worship – "2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary . . ." This is the tabernacle in Jerusalem. How has God brought you through hard times.

Memory verse: "8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me."

Reading for this week: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

CHURCH NOTES 3-23-25

Annual Egg Hunt: We are collecting individually wrapped candy (nut-free, please) and small toys for our annual Egg Hunt on April 12. You can drop donations off in the office or the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Montgomery Scholarship Applicants: Applications for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship may be picked up at the main office any Monday -Friday from 9am-3pm. **The deadline for returning the application is Friday, April 20.** 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 2025-26 school year.

Spring Tour & Home Concert: Epworth choir will be on *Spring Tour* Sunday, March 23-Saturday, March 29. Their annual "Home Concert" will be Sunday, April 6 @7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Worship: We are hosting this year's Ecumenical Maundy Thursday. A soup supper will be served beginning at 6:00pm in Wesley Hall followed by worship @7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Save the Dates: It's time to start planning for summer! Camp registration is happening now. Chess Camp registration has started and VBS registration info will be released very soon. See the brochures at the Welcome Center for more information. Chess Camp is June 23-27, and VBS is July 14-18.

Last Chance 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 **TOMORROW, 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!

- Tulips
- Hyacinths
- Lilies
- Daffodils

Name: _____ Phone: _____

In *memory* or *honor* of: (please circle one)

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

In our greater world: We pray for tax professionals. We pray for peace.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers: for the family of Lee Minier, who passed away on March 13.