

Benediction—*Let the Words*

Lustre

Postlude—*Concerto in G minor—Allegro*

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of our dear best friend, Evelyn Crawford, by Lee and Judy Miller
in loving memory of Diane Weaver, by Jen, Jim, and Ben LaFleur

Music—One License A-731491

Choir Anthem Lyrics—*Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs*—Heinrich Graun
Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

A note about today's vocalists—What do you get when you combine four friends, each with a love of singing, a thirst for learning, a large capacity for laughter, and a little bit of quirk? You get *Lustre*, the 2018 Sweet Adelines International Champion Quartet! *Lustre* has been together for over 13 years. In that time, we have sung pretty much anywhere they'll let us. Over the years we've been invited to some wonderful places. We're thrilled to be here today! —Kate Towne, Lori Crouter, Lori Dreyer, Jenny Harris.

**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*

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm

infomccf@gmail.com

www.firstchurchcf.com



STEADFAST LOVE

March 30, 2025



"The Prodigal Father"

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:45 am

March 30, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*Adagio in G minor*—Albinoni

Introit—*Lead Me Lord*

Call to Worship—

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord,

That he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Seek the Lord who now is present,

We call upon the Lord, who is near.

Opening Hymn 292**—*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Invocation (please be seated)—

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading— Psalm 32:5-8

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

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem—*Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs*—Heinrich Graun

Chancel Choir

Scripture Readings—Luke 15:1-3a; 11-24

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

Sermon—“The Prodigal Father”

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Anthem—*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name*—Fettke

Chancel Choir

In memory of our dear friend, Evelyn Crawford.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*It Is Well with My Soul*

Lustre

Lustre Singers: Kate Towne, Lori Crouter, Lori Dreyer, Jenny Harris

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 297**—*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

—continued

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #292, What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #297, Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	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 judges. We pray for peace.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers: for the family of members Evelyn Crawford, who passed away on 3/24, and Lee Minier, who passed away on March 13. We also lift up Judy Jesson & family upon the death of her brother-in-law, Paul Vittorella on 3/15.

The Welcoming of Sinners

Jesus's ministry, including outcasts and rejects, was unpopular in polite society

Luke 15's parables about lost things are a response to these mutterings

What Sort of God is God Anyway?

vs. 20 – the father was *splagchnizomai* (gut-wrenched) to see his lost son again

vs. 22 – A prodigal is a lavish and extravagant person, so who is the prodigal?

Questions for Reflection:

The father in this parable runs to meet his son, despite the son having squandered away around 1/3 of the father's wealth which he had been given.

How does this parable help you think about how you use the gifts God gives to us?

How does this parable shape how you think of God's response to you?

Questions for Discussion:

Who do you think is more laving and extravagant, the prodigal father or the

prodigal son and why do you think that?

Memory Verse:

Luke 15:20 – *“So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.”*

Readings for this Week:

Zechariah 1:1-4, John 12:1-8, Psalm 32

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 by April 6. Thank you!

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.

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.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Worship: We are hosting this year's Ecumenical Maundy Thursday (April 17). A soup supper will be served beginning at 6:00pm in Wesley Hall followed by worship @7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday Communion: If you can't make the Maundy Thursday service, silent communion will be offered in the Chapel between 9:00-3:00pm on April 17.

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.

Climate Change Information: Bob Boltz will be speaking about Climate Change on Wednesday, April 9 at 10:30am in Wesley Hall. All are welcome.

Got Skills?: Would you be willing to help with special maintenance/cleaning projects around the church? Email Bob Boltz, maps4fun@att.net to be put on a list to receive notices.

Golf Outing: Mark your calendars for the 19th annual *Bud Mills Memorial* Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth Tour, 2026. It will be held at Brookledge Golf Course on Saturday, June 28 @1:00pm. More details forthcoming.