

Benediction and Response (Hymn 142, v. 1)—*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, and hope in God through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in god's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move.

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 Maurice & Jean Gilbert, by Dale Gilbert & Millie Keyser
in honor of Dean Wagner and the Epworth Choir, by Pat Richwine

The rose on the altar this morning is in honor of the birth of Charlotte Lore Davis, born April 1, to parents Jacob and Katie Davis, and grandparents Wally and Aimee Davis.

Music—One License A-731491

Chancel Choir Anthems Lyrics—*Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs*—Heinrich Graun
He Was Despised—Graun

“Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.”

“He was despised and rejected; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”

Epworth Choir Anthem Lyrics—see bulletin insert

**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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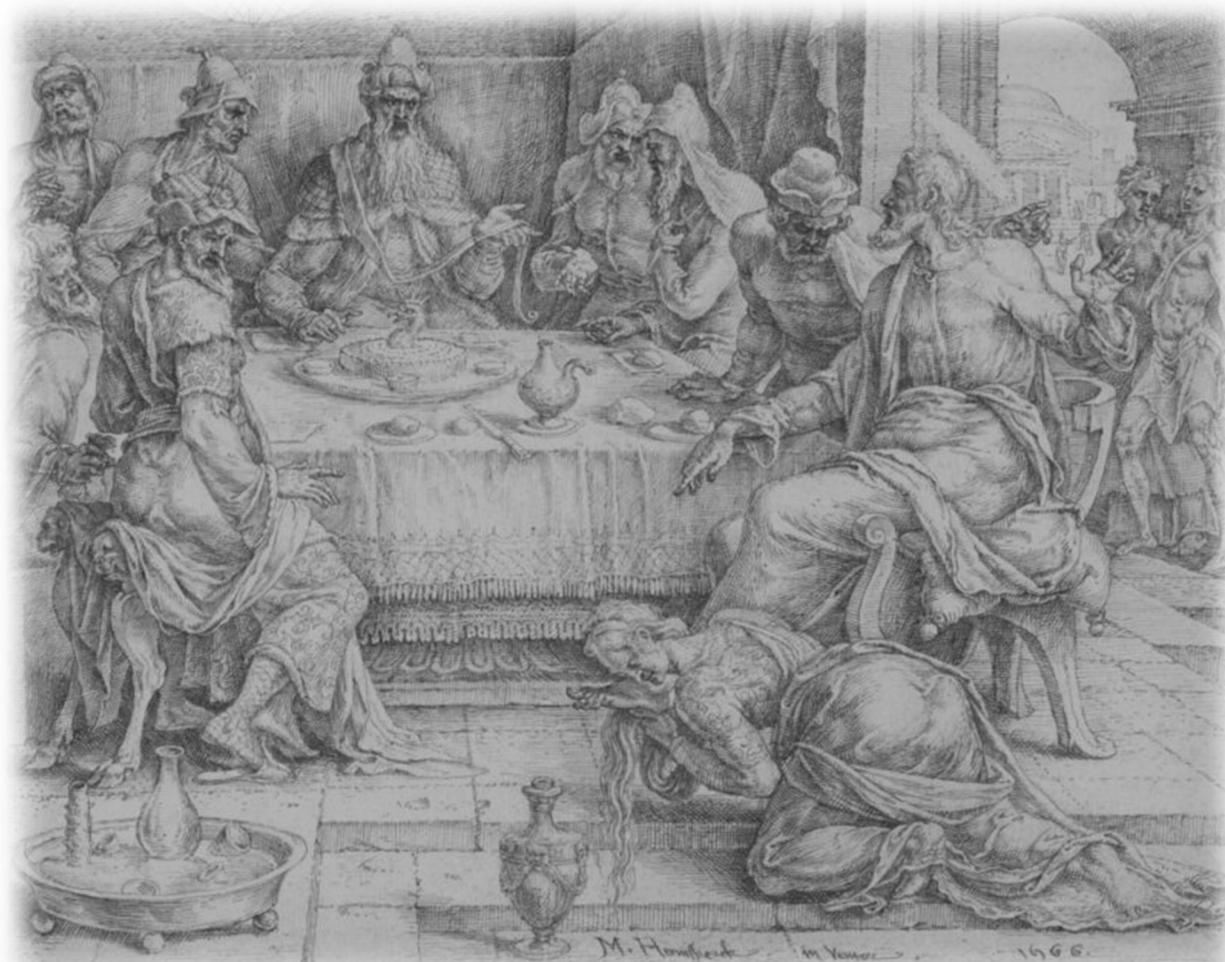
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STEADFAST LOVE

April 6, 2025



“Reaping Joy from Sorrow”

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:45 am

April 6, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*Adagio in G minor*—Albinoni

Introit—*Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*—Charles Callahan

Call to Worship—

Rend you hearts, not your clothing

For the Lord is gracious and merciful

Return to the Lord, your God,

Who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love

Opening Hymn 179**—*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

Invocation (please be seated)—

O merciful Father, in compassion for Your sinful children You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil that made it necessary for Him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading— Psalm 126

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
He Was Despised—Graun

Chancel Choir

Scripture Readings—John 12:1-8

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

Sermon—“*Reaping Joy from Sorrow*”

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response **Insert—*Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*— Ken Medema

Epworth Choir

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.

Communion (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn 172**—*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

—continued

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #179, O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

1. O sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them
from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
fills all the world today;
of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
the angels sing away.

2. O sing a song of Nazareth,
of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
and of the sinless Boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
in every heart may grow;
now spreads the fame of his dear name
on all the winds that blow.

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.

3. O sing a song of Galilee,
of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea
and bade the waves be still.
For though like waves on Galilee,
dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's work,
falls peace upon the soul.

4. O sing a song of Calvary,
its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree,
and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
is mighty now to save.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

EUCHARIST


Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts 70



1 Je - sus, the joy of lov - ing hearts, true source of
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you res - cue
3 We taste of you, the liv - ing bread, and long to
4 Our rest - less spir - its long for you, how - ev - er
5 Je - sus, for - ev - er with us stay: make all our



life, our lives sus - tain; from the best bliss that
those who on you call: to those yet seek - ing,
feast up - on you still. We drink from you, the
may our lot be cast, glad when your gra - cious
mo - ments calm and bright; chase the dark night of



earth im - parts, we turn un - filled to you a - gain.
you are good; to those who find you, all in all.
foun - tain - head; our thirst - ty souls from you we fill.
smile we view, blessed when our faith can hold you fast.
sin a - way; spread through the world your ho - ly light.



Text: Latin (*Jesu, dulcedo cordium*, 12th cent.); tr. Ray Palmer (1808–1887), alt.
Music: Henry Percy Smith (1825–1898).

LM
MARYTON

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #172, My Jesus, I Love Thee

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. In mansions of glory and endless delight;
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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 pastors.

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.

CHURCH NOTES 4-6-25

Home Concert: The annual “Home Concert” will be THIS EVENING @7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Annual Egg Hunt: Join us at 11:00am on Saturday, April 12 for our annual Egg Hunt! Including the Easter Story, crafts, goodie bags, and lunch.

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 18.** 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, Silent Communion: We are hosting this year’s Ecumenical Maundy Thursday (April 17). A soup supper will be served beginning at 5:30pm in Wesley Hall followed by worship @7:00pm in the Sanctuary. 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.

Registering Now: It’s time to start planning for summer! Chess Camp is June 23-27, and VBS is July 14-18. Register now for Summer Camp, Chess Camp, and VBS! Summer Camp and Chess Camp brochures (with registration info) can be found at the Welcome Center. You can register for VBS online at fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com OR scan the QR code.

Register



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.

Wanted: We are in need of a gently used iPad to use with our sound equipment/live streaming set-up. If you have one that you’d be willing to donate please contact Pastor Jon or the church office. Thank you!

Toxic Positivity

vs. 5 – would it have been better to sell the perfume to help the poor?
doing good for others can feel good, even when it’s not what’s best

To Love at All Is to Be Vulnerable

vs. 8 – it’s easier to give charity to someone that to love one’s neighbor
“Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken.” - C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Questions for Reflection:

How can I better love my neighbor, even while I may be serving them?
How am I at meeting someone’s emotional or spiritual needs when I am meeting their practical needs? How can I prepare my heart to be broken more frequently or more fully for Christ?

Questions for Discussion:

In what cases (if any) might it be better to sell the perfume to give to the poor?

Memory Verse:

Psalm 126:5 – “*May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.*”

Readings for this Week:

Luke 19:28-40, Ezekiel 36:22-28, Psalm 126