

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom. Like Christ's first apostles, may we hear his call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“The Gift to Be Simple”

arr. Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“For My Sake and the Gospel's, Go”

Arthur Sullivan, 1887

“For my sake and the Gospel's, go
And tell redemption's story;”
His heralds answer, “Be it so,
And thine, Lord, all the glory!”
They preach his birth, his life, his cross,
The love of his atonement,
For whom they count the world but loss,
His Easter, his enthronement.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come with undivided attention to meet God, who calls you away from old routines.

People: Our souls wait for God in silence. We hope in God, our rock and our salvation.

Leader: Come without anxiety or fear, for God cares for you.

People: We come with devotion to our Sovereign, in whom time is fulfilled and life has meaning.

Leader: Enter the realm of God, which is here and now, as well as beyond time and place.

People: We pour out our hearts before God, whom we trust and honor.

Leader: Let us worship God's holy name.

***Hymn** "You Walk along Our Shoreline" #170

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of compassion and mercy, we confess that we have trusted our narrow understandings rather than sought your will. We have taken our direction from the world rather than questioned the status quo. We have put our confidence in things that are of an earthly nature rather than of a heavenly nature. Christ preaches repentance; we close our ears to his call. Your new day is proclaimed; we dwell on the past. We say we obey you; our deeds say otherwise. By your grace, forgive us, renew us, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** "Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (v. 1) #610

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 62:5-12

Choir Anthem

“Come and Follow Me”

Robert Cohen, 2017

Follow, come and follow me, leave all that you have behind,
Follow, come and follow me, all my blessings you will find.
Follow me, follow me, I'll show you the way to Life,
Let your heart just believe that my peace will end your strife.
Follow, come and follow me, see the miracles I do,
Follow, come and follow me, greater things I'll do through you.
Follow me, follow me, let your praise my Love proclaim,
Come, my true servants be, spread through all the world my name.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Call of Love and Grace”

Rev. Désirée Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith (11.2)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***Hymn**

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

#721

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Doxology”

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

#726

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** “We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff has a treble clef and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff has a treble clef and contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

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***Postlude**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Cherie was born and raised Hamilton, Ohio. She and her husband, Steve, are transplants to central Ohio, having moved to London in 1987. They have a blended family of 5 children, and 8 grandchildren ... the oldest is 19, and the youngest is 9 months. Cherie has a deep love for animals, and has had multiple dogs and cats over the years, along with a ferret at one time. Today, she has resigned herself to one cat, Annie, and one dog, Finn, a long haired German Shepherd who many of you have met.

Cherie is an avid reader, enjoys the occasional puzzle, and loves her flower gardens. The vegetable garden she leaves to Steve’s care. She loves all things Irish/Celtic, hiking, and being in the woods. Hocking Hills is a favorite getaway. Cherie & Steve love to spend time with their grandchildren, plan family get-togethers when time allows, and just being together.