



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

February 11, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Molly Ijames

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship**

Psalm 149

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Sing to the Lord a new Song.

Leader: Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

People: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

*** Hymn #666**

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright Puer Nobis Nascitur

*** Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart. You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security. Forgive us. Call us back to You that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid. May we hear the words so clearly as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration; may we rise up, and not be afraid. In the name of Jesus, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. Amen.

*** Assurance of Forgiveness**

*** Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #581

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!

*** Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

2 Kings 2:1-12

Scripture

Mark 9:2-9

Sermon

“Divine Assurance”

Rev. McNulty

* **Hymn #192**

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

Shine, Jesus, Shine

* **Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

(from A Declaration of Faith)

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Sing Them Over Again to Me
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Joseph Martin

* **Doxology**

Hymnal #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (unison)

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.

* **Hymn #369**

Blessing and Honor

O Quanta Qualia

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Get Up and Go

by Robert Vandall

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Ed McNulty, Guest Preacher; Ken Thomas, Worship Assistant; Brian Shepard, Director/Organist; Davis Dorrough, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Dave Jenkins, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

Announcements

By recommendation of the Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee, the session has requested a **Called Congregational Meeting** following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 18, to approve the nomination of a new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.

The Book Study (formerly Bible Study) will meet on Monday in Pastor Ed's office at 9:30 a.m. The group should have its new book, suggested by a member, *THE THIRD SIDE: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop*. Copies have been ordered and can be picked up at the church office.

Renaissance Ringers will rehearse Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

The *Sanctuary Choir* will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

M&M (Men & More) Monthly Outing: Everyone is invited to join this group for dinner and fellowship at Wildwood Golf Club, 601 Aberdeen Dr. on **Tuesday, February 13**. Fellowship begins approximately at 5:00 and we usually order dinner around 5:30. We hope to see you there.



Valentine Tea and Cookie Exchange: The deacons are pleased to invite you to an afternoon Valentine Tea and cookie exchange on Tuesday, February 13, at 2:00 in Fellowship Hall. We'll provide tea, and ask that you bring two dozen cookies to share if you can. If there are cookies left over, we'll have goody bags available for you to take some home. Jim Veith will be playing piano. We're also delighted to have Suzanne Edwards and two of her ensembles providing entertainment. We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon. All members and their guests are welcome.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of our human mortality and the need for our reconciliation with God. The ashes imposed on our foreheads symbolize both death and repentance. This lovely service of contemplation begins our journey through Lent to the glorious resurrection on Easter. **Please join us on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Rev. McNulty will give a brief message and there will be special music. After the imposition of ashes the congregation will leave in silence. If you are not able to attend, you may watch virtually on our website.

Lenten Film Series

This interactive series led by Pastor Ed begins on Thursday, February 15, at 6 p.m. and runs on Thursday evenings through March 21. Combining a soup and sandwich supper with film viewing and discussion, the discussions will center on Lenten themes such as repentance and redemption, fellowship, and love. See the church newsletter for more details, as well as a list of the films. Those needing a ride should call the church office so that a volunteer can pick them up.

February 15 - Developing a theology of “seeing.”

Film as more than entertainment. Other qualities—expanding horizons, transporting us out of our bubbles, challenging & inspiring us.

Film & storytelling. Jesus & parables. Films as Visual

Parables. Seeing with “Blessed are your eyes”—Matt. 13:10-17

Group watches & reacts to numerous film clips on theological themes.

Please let us know you will be attending the Lenten Series on February 15, by signing up in the Gathering Area.