



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio

www.fpcmiddletown.com

February 4, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

How Firm a Foundation arr. Patricia L. Harris

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

DPNC

*** Call to Worship (responsive)**

Inspired by Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

I bow down toward your holy temple.

On the day I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength of soul.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you preserve me, stretch out your hand, and deliver me;

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

*** Hymn # 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

*** Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*** Assurance of Forgiveness**

*** Gloria Patri**

We Are Forgiven

Hymnal #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*** Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Psalm 139: 1-12

Scripture Luke 19:1-10

Sermon "Into the Darkness!" Catherine Brakemeyer

*** Hymn #686** *God of Our Life* Sandon

Affirmation of Faith (unison) Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *All for Thee* arr. Jack Schrader
Sanctuary Choir

*** 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.

*** Hymn #515** *I Come with Joy* Dove of Peace
Verses 1-3

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 #515**

I Come with Joy
Verses 4-5

Dove of Peace

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The Unclouded Day

arr. Alwood/Raney

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.

Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Catherine Brakemeyer, Licensed Lay Minister; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Brian Shepard, Organist/Pianist; Susan Beagle, pianist; David Jenkins, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

The deacons have placed a white carnation on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Fred Rentschler**, who died on January 28.

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.

Pastor Ed will be back in the office on Monday morning, Monday Morning Book Club will meet in his office at 9:30 a.m. The group is starting a new book, suggested by a member, *THE THIRD SIDE: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop*. Copies can be picked up at the church office. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

The *Renaissance Ringers* will rehearse Wednesday at 6:30 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. 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.

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.

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.