

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140
November 14, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

We Enter Into God's Presence

WELCOME

L: This is the day that the Lord has made.

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

“SURELY THE PRESENCE”

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Look up and raise your heads,

P: because your redemption is drawing near.

L: Be alert at all times,

P: praying that you may stand before the Son of Man.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God of all the ages, the One who is, who was, and who is to come, stir up within us a longing for your kingdom, steady our hearts in time of trial, and grant us patient endurance until the son of justice dawns. We make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN: B- 482 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy

health and salvation! All ye who hear, Now to His

temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen How thy desires o'er have been Granted in what He ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen Sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

P: We know that we are forgiven and we can be at peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE:**

“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.

We Hear God's Word

SPECIAL MUSIC: W&R-523“Soon and Very Soon”

1 Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!

2 No more crying there we are going to see the King,
No more crying there we are going to see the King,
No more crying there we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! We are going to see the King!

3 No more dying there we are going to see the King,
No more dying there we are going to see the King,
No more dying there we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're are going to see the King!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Daniel 12: 1-3

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

PSALM: Psalm 16

¹ Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing.”

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,

- “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”
- ⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.
- ⁵ LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- ⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
- ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

² “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”

⁵ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

MESSAGE: *Not One Stone*

Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman

Have you ever been someplace that has taken your breath away? A place that was manmade like the Coliseum, the Acropolis, or the Eiffel Tower which are truly marvels of human engineering. If you have ever had this type of experience, then you will understand the feelings that flooded through the disciples when they saw the Temple.

The disciples were in awe of the magnificence of the building. The Temple was a huge, imposing structure that had a sense of permanence and strength. Surely nothing could shake its foundations in that very moment. However Jesus had a different perspective as he was looking at the bigger picture of human history. Jesus told the disciples to look around at the wondrous works made by human hands. This massive building that seemed so indestructible would become nothing more than a pile of rubble. Jesus told them that a day would come when not one stone would remain standing.

I wonder if you were a disciple in that time and you were gazing in amazement at the seemingly solid, immovable Temple; would you believe Jesus' statement in that moment. I would suspect that pronouncement had to be almost inconceivable to the disciples. However, we can be sure that all of the miracles and acts of God that Jesus had done let the disciples quickly rethink that response. Jesus clearly had some inside knowledge that they were not privy to and so they began to consider that this calamity of the Temple in ruins might indeed take place.

The disciples began wondering when this event would happen and what signs would indicate the coming destruction of the Temple. Jesus responded that the disciples needed to be aware that there are those who like to spread gloom and doom. We know all about that, don't we? We have the clamoring voices of news reports, social media, misinformation and gossip that try to engulf us in their negativity. These people want to be in charge and have the say so; so they will try to claim that they are the One with power and authority or the One with inside knowledge. Because of how loudly these people are making their claims, they will deceive a lot of people.

However, in the face of these dire predictions of trouble and trial, Jesus is telling the disciples and us that we are to keep our heads and not panic.

There is nothing new under the sun that is happening; it is routine history and not a sign of the end times. Nations will fight; rulers will squabble, over and over again. Natural disasters will occur throughout the world. But none of these things are comparable to what is coming and are only the beginning.

Jesus is not asking the disciples or us to ignore the moment or be blind to the realities of the world and what events are going on in the world right now. Jesus is stressing the fact that we should not put all of our hope in what we see in this moment. Good, bad or indifferent – what is happening now is not going to last. Looking at our world today, some of us might be overcome and overwhelmed by the effects of the pandemic, political divisiveness, racial conflict or environmental destruction on all areas of our lives. We might be tempted to dwell in this moment and consider only the negative aspects of the change that has occurred in our lifestyles. We may think it will last forever.

Yet, Jesus assures us that that is not the case. In the future, not one stone will be left standing of the worries that we hold today. This too shall pass. And rather than buying into the doomsday rhetoric, Jesus is asking us to be thoughtful, do our best to protect others, maintain our calm and levelheadedness and not respond to the rising negativity and anxiety.

Much like the Psalmist, we can take hope by keeping our eyes always on the LORD. With Jesus walking with us, we have the sure and certain knowledge that we will not be shaken. We are called to be hopeful as disciples of Jesus so that we can look beyond the moment and work for God's kingdom that is coming but is not yet here.

Let us be countercultural. Let us do something unexpected that is hope filled. The LORD has made known to us the path of life. Let us rejoice. Let us be glad. Let us be filled with joy in God's presence and then let us share the joy of knowing Christ with the world.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

HYMN: R- 368 “Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

1 Give to the winds thy fears, Hope and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms, He gently clears the way;
Wait thou His time, so shall this night Soon end in joyous day.

2 Still heavy is thy heart? Still sink thy spirits down?
Cast off the weight, let fear depart, And every care be gone.
He every where hath sway, And all things serve His mind;
His every act pure blessing is, His path unsullied light

3 Far, far above thy thought His counsel shall appear,
When fully He the work hath wrought That caused thy needless fear.
Leave to His sovereign will To hose and to command;
With wonder filled, thou then shalt own How wise, how strong His hand.
Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. *(The Apostles' Creed-Ecumenical)*

OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church, 9602 Murdoch Goshen Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140)

JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love.

God our creator, you made all things in your wisdom, and in your love you save us. We pray for the whole creation. Overthrow evil powers, right what is wrong, feed and satisfy those who thirst for justice, so that all your

children may freely enjoy the earth you have made, and joyfully sing your praises.

Merciful God, you bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. Cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace.

God of comfort, stand with those who sorrow that they may be sure that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from your love.

God of all generations, we praise you for all your servants who, having been faithful to you on earth, now live with you in heaven. Keep us in fellowship with them, until we meet with all your children in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Mighty God, whose Word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: Accept our prayers and further those which will bring about your purpose for the earth; through Jesus Christ, the One who taught us to say as we pray,

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.

We are Sent Out to Love and Serve

HYMN:B-210 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1 Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home;

2 Before the hills in order stood, Our earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

3 A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun

4 Time, like an ever-rolling stream. Soon bears us all away.
We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

5 Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last And our eternal home.

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.
And as you go out, know that you take with you the love of God, the grace
of Our Lord, Jesus Christ and the *awesome* power of the Holy Spirit.

Choral Amen

Postlude