

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140

November 7, 2021 10:30 a.m.

**Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God  
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
All Saints' Day**

*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: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

**P: let us also lay aside every weight**

L: and the sin that clings so closely,

**P: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son, Christ our Lord. Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**HYMN: B-438**

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

1 Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne , We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin, we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

### **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 359 "Give Thanks"**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks!

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 9:24-28**

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. <sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## **PSALM: Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God.

<sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.  
<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets prisoners free,  
<sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD.

**GOSPEL LESSON:** Mark 12:38-44

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

**MESSAGE: *Worshipful Giving* Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

In our Scripture lesson this morning, Jesus points out what is important in life by helping his disciples see the difference between self-centered giving and worshipful giving. At the Temple, Jesus watches the offering plates being passed and sees many a Scribe stand up to tell how much he has

given and how much good his gift will do and how he is so very important compared to those around him; the epitome of tooting one's own horn.

Then Jesus spots her, a woman who clearly is not from the affluent neighborhood nearby. Her clothing is clean but old and carefully mended. Her manner is so unique in this place, she is completely reverent and in awe as she sits basking in the glory of God, worshipping God with devotion and dedication. When the offering plate comes to her, the widow puts in everything she has in gratitude to God and silently declares that God will provide for all that she needs if she but trusts and follows where the Holy Spirit leads.

In January of 2009, Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church had a devastating fire. I was called to temporarily serve the church following that fire to help them stay together and decide how they would move into the future, and because of that association I had the privilege to meet someone who was God-centered that demonstrated how one engaged in worshipful giving.

In the aftermath of the fire, the fire department had released the church property from its investigation and allowed the reclamation work to begin. I was overseeing a crew of workers who had come to salvage as much as they could from the burnt out building. The church was located right next door to a CVS. Now to give you some bearings, Portland at that time was one of the poorest sections of the inner-city in Louisville, Kentucky.

As I was carrying in a case of water for the workers that morning, a man stopped me and said, "I want to give to the church so that you all can rebuild and continue to do God's work here in Portland. I am going to be cleaning up the parking lot for CVS and when I get paid I want to give to help God's word go on here."

Clearly, this was not a man of means. He had on well-worn clean clothes, old tennis shoes, and a thin jacket in the cold of that February day. But his manner was pleasant and sincere. I wondered if his desire to give was because he had been a client of the church's clothes closet and food pantry. I thanked the man and said we would be working in the church most of the day and his gift would be welcome and appreciated.

Now one of the church members, a young man who was helping with the clean-up cryptically said, "You'll never see him again. He is going to get his money, buy some booze, and crawl inside the bottle before he would ever give a penny to the church. Besides what little he gives will never help."

I said, "Dustin, what difference does the amount of the gift he gives make? If it is a quarter or a dollar, that would be great because God does so much with so little. It is clear that whatever he gives will be a gift from his heart and his love of God, and because of that we should be grateful."

Dustin snorted saying, "I doubt if you'll ever see any money from him."

Hours went by as we worked in the church, shoveling debris from what had once been the aisles between the pews in the sanctuary. Timber and beams were lifted and handed out the window to be stacked. People were scouring the grounds for pieces of the stained glass windows that had been broken in order to get the hoses into the building.

Every now and then, I would look into the CVS lot and see the man sweeping or picking up trash or helping someone load their car with recent purchases. Now, let's be realistic for just a moment. In the location and the state of the economy of that moment, the folks of CVS were not about to pay a huge amount of money in order to have someone sweep and clean up their parking lot. It seemed reasonable to assume that the most that the man would have received for his services would be about \$20.

As we were wrapping up our workday, the man returned much to Dustin's amazement. The man said to me, "I'm sorry I cannot give you more, but this is the best that I can do." He handed me a \$5 bill clearly demonstrating his gratitude to God for the church and how to engage in worshipful giving to Dustin and to me.

In this day and age, I wonder if we realize how often we are encouraged by the world around us to focus our thoughts and actions on the pursuit of wealth and treasure. We buy into the rhetoric that we need to acquire wealth in order to make a name for ourselves so that we can be seen as better than those around us and have the spotlight of popularity shine on us. When we believe in the importance of wealth, like the Scribes, we are religious people who attend church, but our focus has changed from being God centered to being self-centered. Too often we do not see the

goodness that God has given to us, and like the Scribes, we become self-absorbed; we no longer give to glorify God's name, we give to glorify our own name.

The good news of Jesus Christ is that no matter who we are and no matter what our life situation might be, we have been given love and grace that we can offer back to God in worship. Even when there is little to no monetary value to what we are giving, God knows it is valuable. Just like Jesus' reaction to the poor widow or Dustin's reaction to the man who swept CVS's parking lot, our gift of true worship will be seen as very precious in the sight of God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

**HYMN: B-391**

#### **"Take My Life"**

1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in  
ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful  
for Thee, Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages  
from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Every power as  
Thou shalt choose, Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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

### **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.

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**RENUNCIATIONS**

**PROFESSION**

#### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

L: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**P: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**P: 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**P: 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*)**

## **WELCOME**

L: Let us welcome Randy Evans as he joins with us in the worship and mission of the church.

**P: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray.

O God, enliven the church for its mission that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world. Breathe fresh life into your people. Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace, that we may respect one another in freedom and truth. Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it. Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. May they know the power of your healing love. Make us willing agents of your compassion. Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We lift before you those things that have brought joy into our lives...

We ask travel mercies on all who are traveling...

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. We remember especially Alvin Walker, Arthur "Skip" Keiser and Weldon J. Adams. Give comfort to those who mourn.

We take just a moment to pray for ourselves...

Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may minister in your name, with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our

homecoming and the welcome of your embrace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from north and south, from east and west, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table. This is not just a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

### **Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. We praise you for saints and martyrs, for the faithful in every age who have followed your Son and witnessed to his resurrection. From every race and tongue, from every people and nation, you have gathered them into your kingdom. You have shown them the path of life and filled them with the joy of your presence. How glorious is your heavenly realm where the multitude of your saints rejoice with Christ!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**P: "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Sent to be our Savior, he took our flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. His words are true. His touch brings healing. To all who follow him, he gives abundant life. When evil sought to destroy him, and he lay in the darkness of death, you raised him from the grave. He is our risen Lord forever!

Remembering your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

L: According to his commandment:

**P: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Number us among your saints, O God, and join us with the faithful of every age, that strengthened by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and may with them receive the unfading crown of glory when we stand before your throne of grace. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

### **Communion of the People - Invitation**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as we sing: 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***

### **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

† **Choral Amen**

† **Postlude**