

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140  
**January 23, 2022 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God**  
**The Third Sunday after Epiphany**

***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: The time is fulfilled

**P: and the kingdom of god is at hand;**

L: repent,

**P: and believe the good news.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, you sent Jesus to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with your Spirit, that we too may bring good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: B- 138      “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another as we pray together saying,

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

#### **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-658 "Awesome God"**

Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power, and love  
Our God is an awesome God

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**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving

greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

### **PSALM: Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice<sup>[b]</sup> goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

**MESSAGE: *Good News! You Are the Body of Christ***

**Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

For all intents and purposes, Luke has set up this first speech in his gospel by Jesus as an announcement of his mission. So what kind of vision do we hear today in Jesus' address? It is a description of the kingdom of God. It is a promise of God's aid and presence. All of this and more is summarized by the words "good news." Listen once again:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

If you listen closely, what is unusual is that this good news is only good if you are willing to admit what is hard in your life - what is lacking, - what has been most difficult. It is not "good news" in general, but rather good news for the poor. It is not just release, but release to those who are captive; it is not just sight, but sight to those who are blind and it is not just freedom, but freedom to those who are oppressed. Do you hear the difference? God offers words of comfort, but such words only mean something to those people who are living with discomfort.

I wonder, how do you think we hear those words today? We spend so much time acting as if we have it all together. There is so much pressure on us externally from the culture at large and internally from ourselves to not need anything or anyone. Some wonder if Jesus' message has any value or can find any legitimate claim among today's listeners. I know there are many people who think that way, and I have had some who have tried to convince me that there is no good news from God. They might be able to persuade me, except for one thing: the stories we tell ourselves about being perfect, the commercials we pay attention to telling us that we really can have it all, the ads that promise us that if we just purchase this product we will never feel insecure again – these are all false. And deep down inside we know it.

While Jesus' message is good news, in order for us to hear it that way it must first strike us as bad news. The bad news is that we are not who we want to be, we are not who we can be, and we are not who we should be. We must accept the reality that we never will be. Jesus comes bringing good news to those in need. Those who are blinded by cultural norms do not see and admit their need – so they want nothing to do with Jesus.

However, when we can admit that need, when we can be honest about our deep hurts, our fears, and our longings, three things happen. First, we feel an immense sense of freedom simply from admitting the truth. Bad news when it's true is still better than a pretty lie. Second, we can receive the help and comfort that God offers; release, sight, healing, freedom, and more. Third, we realize we don't simply receive help and comfort, but we are also invited to offer it to others. We are invited not just to hear and receive good news, but to *be* good news.

In one sense, this is what the Body of Christ and the community of faith wherever it gathers is, God's hands delivering the promise of good news to all who come in need. Because of that we can ask those around us and maybe even ourselves: Are you Afraid? Then we invite you to come together to find courage. Are you Lonely? Let us invite you to come join our community of faith. Are you Ill? Let us care and pray for you. Are you feeling Isolated? We will visit you. Are you feeling Discouraged? Let us encourage one another.

We are called to be the Body of Christ; we are called to *be* the good news to those around us. Let us strive to show it to the world by what we think, by what we say and by what we do. In that way, we will answer the calling on our lives by being good news to those around us.

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

#### **HYMN: B- 434 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"**

Today we are called to be Disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captive free, Make plowshare out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first, Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud, We sow not peace but strife,  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream,  
With righteousness in field and town To cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease,  
A world that was created for A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God Act out the living Word.  
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord

### **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)**

### **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.

**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 our creator, you made all things in your wisdom, and in your love you save us. We pray for the whole creation, especially in this time of crisis. 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.

Eternal God, you sent us a Savior, Christ Jesus, to break down the walls of hostility that divide us. Send peace on earth and put down greed, pride, and anger, which turn nation against nation and race against race. Speed the day when wars will end and the whole world accepts your rule.

O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, or resent, and live together in your peace.

We ask healing for those who are sick, in pain or experiencing dis-ease in their lives.

We mourn with those who mourn, even while You welcome those who have taken their next step to be in heaven with you.

We share with joy the exciting things that have been happening.

We ask travel mercies on those who are traveling.

We take just a moment to pray for ourselves.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray and to offer our petitions to you in his name. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love. It is in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray the prayer he taught us,

### **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-430 "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"**

1 Come sing O church in joy! Come join O church in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us Through the ages long!  
In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

2 Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns supreme  
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

3 Let courage be our friend, Let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

4 Come sing O church in joy! Come join O church in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

### **Charge and Benediction**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak,  
and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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**