

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140
February 13, 2022 10:30 a.m.
Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God
The Sixth 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: Happy are those whose way is blameless,

P: who walk in the law of the Lord.

L: Happy are those who keep the Lord's decrees,

P: who seek the Lord with their whole heart.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you challenge the powers that rule this world and show favor to the oppressed. Instill in us a true sense of justice, that we may discern the signs of your kingdom and strive for right to prevail for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN: B-454 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

1 Blessed Jesus, at Your word We are gathered all to hear You;
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You.
By Your teachings true and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded;
You alone to God can win us, You must work all good within us.

3 Glorious Lord, Yourself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our ears and heart, Help us by Your Spirit's pleading;
Hear the cry that We are raising; Hear and bless our prayers and praising.

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:

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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-447 “Because He Lives”

1 God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal and forgive; he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain: Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because he lives.

2 How sweet to hold a newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance; this child can face uncertain days because he lives. *Refrain*

3 And then one day, I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know he lives. *Refrain*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,

for you will go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

MESSAGE: *Resurrection Doubts* Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman

One of the basic tenants of the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ lived, taught, died and was resurrected. In our scripture today, the apostle Paul is taking on some of the doubts that are circulating in the church in Corinth. One recurring question that Paul encountered was, “Will people really be resurrected after they die?” Let me be clear, this question is not being asked to challenge the resurrection of Jesus; rather it is questioning the resurrection of the average believer.

The possibility of resurrection can be found in the Old Testament Scriptures. We can easily find examples of a few resurrections which were often miracles done by the prophets of God. For instance in 1 Kings, Elijah asked God to restore the life of the widow’s son and God did. It was a one-time occurrence with only the widow’s son being restored to life. Therefore, for the people of Corinth, this example made it easy to accept the one miraculous resurrection of the Son of God, but there were doubts about whether, upon their death, every one of the believers would be sharing in the resurrection of Jesus.

Many of us define faith as what one believes, whereas Paul thinks of faith as dynamic and not static; of people actively moving into right relationship to God. To deny the resurrection of believers is to deny the reality of Christ’s resurrection thus making faith futile. For Paul, the understanding that Christ was raised and the assertion that believers likewise will be raised from the dead cannot be separated. It is precisely because Jesus was raised from the dead that believers will share in the resurrection. The resurrection of the dead is God’s gracious gift, similar to the gifts of creation and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. God redeems the whole person, not simply the “immortal soul.” Paul declares that “we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:5). This declaration affirms the continuity between Jesus’ resurrection and our own; it is God’s act for us.

Let us rejoice in the knowledge that faith is the powerfully established, powerfully effective, and productive right relationship to God that we have received as followers of Christ. It is in that faith that, as believers, we can be assured that we will share in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Thanks be to God!

We Respond with Thanksgiving

HYMN: B- 526 “For All the Saints”

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who
Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy
name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through
Gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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, who taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere, hear us as we pray for others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Inspire the whole church with your power, unity, and peace. Grant that all who trust you may obey your Word, and live together in love.

Lead all nations in the way of justice and goodwill. Direct those who govern, that they may rule fairly, maintain order, uphold those in need, and defend oppressed people; that this world may claim your rule and know true peace.

Awaken all people to the danger we have inflicted upon the earth. Implant in each a reverence for all you have made that we may preserve the delicate balance of creation for all coming generations.

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel through Word and Sacrament and deeds of mercy, that by their teaching and example they may reveal your love for all people.

Comfort and relieve, O Lord, all who are in trouble ... sorrow ... poverty ... sickness ... grief ... especially those known to us, whom we name before you in silence ... Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance, working in them, by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope.

Bring to our remembrance all those who, having served you on earth, now sing your praises eternally. May their endurance give us courage and their faithfulness give us hope; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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-361 “How Firm a Foundation”

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 “Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 “When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

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