

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140  
**February 6, 2022 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God**  
**The Fifth 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: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**P: they shall mount up with wings like eagles,**

L: they shall run and not be weary,

**P: they shall walk and not faint.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be light that shines in the world. Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: B-356 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

Sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it

Mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

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

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor as we pray together saying,

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

**Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

#### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**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-346 “O Come to Me, the Master Said”**

1 O come to me, the Master said, my Father knows your need;  
and I shall be, the Master said, your bread of life indeed.  
By faith in him we live and grow and share the broken bread,  
and all his love and goodness know, for so the Master said.

2 Abide in me, the Master said, the true and living vine;  
my life shall be, the Master said, poured out for you as wine.  
His body to the cross he gave, his blood he freely shed,  
who came in love to seek and save, for so the Master said.

3 Believe in me, the Master said, for I have called you friends,  
and yours shall be, the Master said, the life that never ends.  
And so, with sin and sorrow past, when death itself is dead,  
the Lord shall raise us up at last, for so the Master said.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than

all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

### **PSALM: Psalm 138**

- <sup>1</sup> I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;  
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and will praise your name  
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,  
for you have so exalted your solemn decree  
that it surpasses your fame.
- <sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me;  
you greatly emboldened me.
- <sup>4</sup> May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,  
when they hear what you have decreed.
- <sup>5</sup> May they sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for the glory of the LORD is great.
- <sup>6</sup> Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;  
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
- <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life.  
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;  
with your right hand you save me.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will vindicate me;  
your love, LORD, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 5:1-11**

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**MESSAGE:**

## ***Hangin' On!***

**Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

It was in the fall of 2005 that I found myself walking into a hospital surgical waiting room. I was searching for my little brother, Daryl. Even though Daryl towers over me at 6'5", I never fail to remind him that he is still my 'little brother.' It has always been a running joke between us. He was there in the corner, huddled down into the less than comfortable chair for his larger than average frame. He was waiting to go back to see his wife of just a few months prior to her surgery. Daryl's wife, Jennifer was having a shunt placed in her brain to drain the excess fluids off and relieve the pressure with the hope that the blinding headaches she struggled with would cease.

Daryl had not yet seen me and as I approached I said, "How ya doing?" The thought ripped through my mind that it was an incredibly stupid question to ask someone whose loved one was facing such a major surgery. I felt foolish and I stood there waiting for a sibling smack-down of "Just how do you think I am doing, dork?" But it was not forth coming. Instead, Daryl turned to me, the concern in his brown eyes brightened a bit when he saw me in my pastor's collar.

"I am so glad you made it in time! They should be calling me back soon to see Jen. We had been talking and we feel that it is very important that you anoint her and give her a blessing before she goes under the knife." Daryl's eyes grew large as he realized what he had said and he gulped back his anxiety. "Jen and I know that God will be present during this surgery, but we really want to have that physical reminder of God's presence through anointing, especially now."

I have to say that I was a bit taken aback – even though I knew Daryl had always been an active church member and regular attender – somehow I just didn't

expect my sibling to share his deep and abiding faith with me, not because I was a pastor, but because I was his sister.

I looked at my brother from a new perspective and asked him, “So how are you, really?”

“I’m hanging on” he said. “I know that I can trust my life and Jen’s life with Jesus and I know that God will never let me or Jen go, no matter what. Knowing that has gotten us through so much already as we have faced all of Jen’s physical challenges together. So I’m hanging on to Jesus, because Jesus is hanging on to me!”

Have you ever thought of hanging on to Jesus as you face each day of your life and all of the challenges that arise from living? Do we hang on when our family members, spouses, friends and neighbors face difficulties and hardships? There are so many things that happen to people that could just break your heart and your will if you had no faith in God, no savior in Jesus, no guidance from the Holy Spirit. The pandemic, diseases and other natural disasters that destroy and kill, health problems, job issues, unemployment, or personal crises; all of these things can drag us to the edge and throw us into a pit of despair if we had no faith and all we relied upon was ourselves. Can you imagine having nothing to hang on to that is greater than us?

Have you ever wondered what it is that gives people the courage and strength to continue hanging on even in the face of extreme adversity? In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul informs the believers in Corinth that it is the faith that we have in the risen Christ that is the foundation for all other things in our lives. Faith is the key that allows us to remain hanging on even though we face hard times and situations in our lifetimes.

What is it that you face today that is eating away at you and testing your faith? Is it your fear, your desires or your anxieties that are making you think about loosening your grip on your faith and letting go? Or are you hanging on? Is your faith in Jesus, the risen Lord, strong enough to hold you up – even when you seem to be in danger of falling away?

The apostle Paul says emphatically: Yes! Your faith can be strong enough to uphold you and more. Your faith can change you and the way you interact with the world. Your faith can get you through anything if you put your trust in Jesus and plan to make sure that you are always hanging on to God. Remember Jesus was hanging on the cross for your sake, for my sake, and for the sake of the

world. And God raised this Jesus from the dead for your sake, for my sake, and for the sake of the world.

We all know that the last couple of years have been tough. The world has been turned on its head and many of us are still trying to figure out which way is up. So let me ask you: how are you doing? Is your faith strong enough? Through all of the trials of these recent years, it would be so easy to just give up. Yet, Paul tells us that we need to lean into our faith and we can count on the grace of God to be there for you and for me and for the entire world. Friends, there is always room for you, for me and for the world to hang on to Jesus, because by the grace of God - Jesus is hanging on to us!

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

#### **HYMN: B-280      “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”**

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

#### **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 the church)**

**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**

L: As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying: Hear our prayer. That churches of all traditions may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That you will preserve all who live and work in this place in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: That you will accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest, who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God:

**P: Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer; through Jesus Christ and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name. You raised up Christ to rule over all creation, giving him the name which is above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. We praise you that, lifted in power, he lives and reigns forever in your glory and so fulfills his promise to be with us always to the end of time.

Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are just and true.

Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels,

and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord

from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

According to his commandment:

**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. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. By your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory.

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

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus 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.

### **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.

### **Choral Amen**

### **Postlude**