

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140
July 31, 2022 10:30 a.m.
Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God
The Eighth 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: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

P: They shall mount up with wings as eagles,

L: They shall run and not be weary,

P: they shall walk and not faint.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, giver of life and health, your Son Jesus Christ has called us to hunger and thirst to see right prevail. Refresh us with your grace, that we may not be weary in well-doing; for the sake of him who meets all our needs, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: B- 460 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

1 Holy God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we bow before You;
All on earth Your scepter claim, All in heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain, Everlasting is Your reign.

2 Hark, the glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;

Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising;
Fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

3 All apostles join the strain As Your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun, Through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: Three we name You,
While in essence only One; Undivided God we claim You,
And adoring Bend the knee While we own the mystery.

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:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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-438 "On Eagle's Wings"

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust."

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you and famine will bring you no fear, under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**

3 You need not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. **Refrain**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Colossians 3:1-11

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

PSALM: Psalm 49:1-12

¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all who live in this world,

² both low and high,
rich and poor alike:
³ My mouth will speak words of wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.
⁴ I will turn my ear to a proverb;
with the harp I will expound my riddle:
⁵ Why should I fear when evil days come,
when wicked deceivers surround me—
⁶ those who trust in their wealth
and boast of their great riches?
⁷ No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them—
⁸ the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough—
⁹ so that they should live on forever
and not see decay.
¹⁰ For all can see that the wise die,
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,
leaving their wealth to others.
¹¹ Their tombs will remain their houses forever,
their dwellings for endless generations,
though they had named lands after themselves.
¹² People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself,

“You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

MESSAGE: *God’s 9-1-1* **Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

If something dreadful happens and you are in the midst of an emergency: What do you do? How do you respond? You may try to see if there is anything you can do to assist in the situation, but what happens if there is nothing you can do? In our world today, most of us would call 9-1-1 to alert first responders that will help us in our time of physical crisis. But today I am wondering, what you do when you are in an emotional or spiritual crisis.

Many of us understand that there are times that we reach the limit of our emotional and spiritual health. This has been especially true since the beginning of the pandemic when the world as we knew it was toppled over. And even before that, it was common that when asked how we are doing, we tend to downplay how we are feeling and would rarely discuss it with anyone, even our pastor. We say, “Everything is fine,” particularly when it is not. For some unknown reason it seems that if there is no outward sign or nothing physical for others to see, then there is no problem.

There appears to be a double standard for emotional or spiritual pain in our society. No one seems to want to let anyone know when they are experiencing that kind of pain. If we had fallen and gotten a bump the size of a goose egg on our head with blood trailing down our face, we would be seeking out medical attention. No one would think twice. Those around you would say, “Of course you should have yourself attended to by a medical professional and bandaged up.”

Yet there is no physical bandage we can put on when our emotional or spiritual health is compromised. It could appear that there is no help for us and we may begin to despair. I wonder if those are the times that we have forgotten that our God is steadfast and faithful, always present and accessible. I wonder if in our despair we overlook that we are people of the

Word. Within it there is a salve for our souls, a balm for our brow that might well ease our troubled hearts and minds. All we have to do is to open our bible and read.

That may sound intimidating to some of us. The bible contains 66 books and, truth be told, many of us have not read that much of it to have familiarized ourselves with its contents. Where would one start if dealing with an emotional or spiritual crisis?

Perhaps a good place to start would be God's 9-1-1, Psalm 91 beginning with verse one which says:

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I wonder what this verse says to you about being a child of God. Let's unpack this a bit. This one verse speaks of the person who lives a full and engaged life with God at the center. This one trusts fully in God and places their whole life - physical, emotional, and spiritual- in the hands of God. They actively seek out God every day through reading scripture, praying and simply being quiet and attentive to what it is that they hear God saying to them. When one trusts God in this way, there is no doubt that God's presence will always be felt, in good time or difficult times. One of the ancient church fathers suggested that we should, "Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends" (St. Alphonsus Ligouri).

For a society of people who believe they are self-sufficient, this wild concept of trusting and fully relying on God is reinforced by the second verse of Psalm 91:

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

In unpacking this verse, we find that the one who fully trusts and relies on God will go to God to find help when they are in emotional or spiritual distress. There are times when coming back to ourselves away from the TV, cellphone, and media of the day is of critical importance. It is so distracting and noisy in our world today that we can almost drown in the sound. There are times that we need to be still and know that God is God.

Sometimes the help we need may be from the medical community or a counselor or a coach who can assist in evaluating if something more needs to be done. There is a reason that God gifted this skill to these people who are a part of the body of Christ – to help other members when they are in need.

The next time that you find yourself in a moment or time of emotional or spiritual distress, look to God's 9-1-1, Psalm 91 beginning with verse one and center yourself on God through the Word so that the Word may bring you hope, comfort and healing.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

HYMN: B-220 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

1 All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

3 O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

4 For why? The Lord our God is good, His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

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 hosts; 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

Let us pray,

God of heaven and earth, we bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need to your loving care. Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, so that united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry.

Merciful Father, hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care, and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

Eternal God, renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace. Guide those who make and administer our laws to build a society based on trust and respect. Erase prejudices that oppress; free us from crime and violence; guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism. Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.

Merciful God, look with compassion on all who suffer. Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, those who live without hope, and those who are homeless or abandoned. As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus Christ

God of comfort, sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole. Give hope to the dying. Comfort those who mourn. Uphold all who suffer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.

O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ; the One 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: 276

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy
hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain***

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Refrain***

Charge and Benediction

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.
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

We believe that our mission is to:

Bring people to Jesus

Educate them in God's truth

Teach them to love God and each other

Heal the brokenhearted in loving family community

Enjoy God and each other

Live worshipful lives