

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140  
**August 21, 2022 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God**  
**The Eleventh 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: Jesus is the Christ,

**P: the Son of the living God.**

L: I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

**P: No one comes to the Father, except through me.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith. Give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognizing in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: B- 263                    “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

**1** Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

- 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

#### **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:**

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

#### **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:** **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 and awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with  
wisdom, power and love – Our God is and awesome God!

#### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 12:18-29**

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; <sup>19</sup> to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, <sup>20</sup> because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup> The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup> to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup> The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our "God is a consuming fire."

### **PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

<sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

<sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

<sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

**MESSAGE:**

***Mountain of Fear of Mountain of Joy***

**Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

Which mountain would you rather live on: the Mountain of Fear or the Mountain of Joy? The writer of the book of Hebrews paints a rather compelling picture of both of these mountains. It certainly seems as if there is an obvious choice – the Mountain of Joy, but I wonder if sometimes we choose the Mountain of Fear.

I wonder if we choose the Mountain of Fear when things around us begin to change, when our world is upended and our expectations are shattered. Instead of entering into the transformative possibilities when change happens, we dig in our heels, circle the wagons and chant “we have always done it that way.” We are not interested in thinking outside of the box. We want other people who seem to be moving away from what we think and feel is comfortable to stay in their own lane.

Most people don't really like change, but some folks fight it tooth and nail. For these people the Mountain of Fear seems more of a place to fight this battle of fearing change; of fearing progress; of fearing the unknown. Really, the Mountain of Fear is inhabited by people who want to be completely in control of each and every situation in their lives. Everything must be perfectly done in their way and if that does not happen, it is an abomination. They would much prefer the mountain burning with fire, the doom and the gloom and the fear than to entertain the idea that someone somewhere might actually have a better idea that would instigate change.

Yet, as Christians we have been asked to turn away from the Mountain of Fear and put all of our troubles, all our cares upon Christ. We are given the opportunity to free ourselves from fear of all kinds: the fear of not being good enough; the fear of what others will think; the fear of taking chances in the name of Jesus for the sake of the Gospel. When we give up our fear and trembling and accept our adoption into God's family, we become resilient and we can begin to live on the mountain of joy.

The joyous mountain is where we find the living city of God. We are witness to the work of angels in our midst. We know without a doubt that God the creator of all things seen and unseen knows our name and loves us with a deep and everlasting love. God judges us through the lens of Jesus who gave his life for our sin so that we could be free of the fear that

sin instills in our hearts. Of this we can be assured: The Mountain of Joy cannot be shaken and our God cannot be moved.

Doesn't the description of the Mountain of Joy make you want to shrug yourself out of the heavy fear that has weighed you down and give all of it to Jesus? Without the fear, your soul takes flight and the freedom makes your heart sing. The depth of your gratitude for all that God through the Son, Jesus has done to save you from the sin and fear that controls you is inexpressible. Your desire to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is genuine and you strive to be the authentic human that God created you to be as you live a joy-filled life. The joy sparks a fire in our souls that burns for God.

Our love of God should take us over heart, mind and spirit. Our gratitude to Jesus opens us to be his hands and feet in this world. Our desire to do God's will invites us to follow the urging of the Holy Spirit. When we release our fear, we open ourselves to the joy of God's love for us. That is the mountain that I want to live on – the Mountain of Joy. What about you?

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

#### **HYMN: B-375**

#### **“Lord of All Good”**

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;  
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew,  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

2 We give our minds to understand Your ways,  
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design,  
Heart with the flame of Your own love ablaze,  
Till for Your glory all our powers combine.

3 Father, whose bounty all creation shows;  
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:  
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

#### **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,

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

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. We pray for the world.

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. We pray for the community.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others, that all may act with integrity and courage. Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us. We pray for those in need.

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 remember those who have died and those who mourn.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Loving God, into your hands we commend them. Give comfort to those who mourn. Fill the emptiness of their loss with your never-ending peace. We pray for ourselves and our ministries.

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, we pray the prayer he taught us as we say together,

### **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: 140**

#### **“Holy, Holy”**

1 Holy, holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love, Holy, holy, holy, holy.

2 Gracious Father, gracious Father, We're so blest to be Your children, gracious Father; And we lift our heads before You as a token of our love, Gracious Father, gracious Father.

3 Precious Jesus, precious Jesus, We're so glad that You've redeemed us, precious Jesus; And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love, Precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

4 Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit; And we lift our voice before You as a token of our love, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

### **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:**

**B**ring people to Jesus

**E**ducate them in God's truth

**T**each them to love God and each other

**H**eal the brokenhearted in loving family community

**E**njoy God and each other

**L**ive worshipful lives