

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140

August 7, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

**Celebrating 207 years of Faithful Service to Our God
The Ninth 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: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

P: and in God's word is my hope.

L: Watch and be ready,

P: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, the grace always to do and think what agrees with your purpose; that we, who cannot exist without you, may be enabled to live according to your will; 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, unhasting, 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-656 "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you;
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up
shining' in the light of your glory; pour out your power and love
as we sing Holy, holy, holy.
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for.

³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.
¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;
¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—
¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.
¹⁶ No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
¹⁸ But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
¹⁹ to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.
²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
²² May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 12:32-40

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never

fail, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

MESSAGE: *A Heart for God* Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman

Each of us comes to know God differently. Some of us have parents, grandparents, or other family members that insist on teaching us from a young age the importance of God being a part in our lives. For some of those folks - God is always present with them as they grow, God has a place in their lives, they pray to God at meals and bedtime as they are growing up. God is known to them, and they include God in their struggle to understand the world.

Some of us come to know God through friends. God has been introduced to us by people we love and admire. These are kind, compassionate, and loving people who draw others into their circle. Whether it is a youth group, a church family, or a time of fellowship for those who are young at heart, friends bring their friends into the church. By inviting friends to become part of the beloved community, these folks are encouraging their friends to blossom and grow in the warmth of God's love.

Some of us come to know God in tragedy. God can be found in places where people are broken, crushed down and hurt. In our pain, we find that God is present and loving often sending faithful disciples to help in whatever way they can in our time of trial. These friends within the beloved community of the church become the hands and feet - the physical embodiment of Jesus Christ for us in times of great peril.

Some of us come to know God through joy. The great joys of life are special events - achievements, accomplishments, a job well done, partnerships, marriages, births, celebrations – all of these bring people together. Or to revel in the joy of glorious nature that when witnessed, we can see has been created with purpose and beauty. To be able to come to the mountain top and look over the lands below or to come to the seaside and watch the water churn and crash on the beach, allows for those who enjoy and find God in nature a certain knowledge that creation is wonderful and awesome, made and ordered by hands other than human hands. It is so very clear that an Architect, much greater than any human, with a divine purpose put the world in motion and fashioned all creation for humanity to care for and to enjoy.

If we are very, very fortunate - at some time in our life we will encounter someone who truly has a heart for God. These people show us how it is that we are to live in this world by demonstrating how it is that they put God first in their own lives. Everything that they do in the world comes out of that understanding that God has given each one of us everything we will ever need. Therefore, we are to respond with a deep sense of gratitude for all that we have received. Those who have a heart for God show us that we are secure in the knowledge of the love of God for us; we do not need to be afraid, only faithful.

Those who have a heart for God are always ready to help - not just friends and loved ones, but anyone who has a great need. Much like the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared" these folks can and will drop everything and do what they can to help out. Should you be the one in despair, they will give you the shirt off their back and bless you with their warmth, steadfastness, and humility as they bring the light of Christ into your life.

No matter how each one of us has come to know God, our greatest calling is to have a heart for God. How wonderful it would be if we would take our heart for God and share it with a world that needs God so desperately.

So my friends let us challenge ourselves to develop a heart for God that beats with passion and fervor. Then let us commit to sharing the all-encompassing love of God with everyone that we encounter today and every day. May our efforts to do so, be pleasing to God and show God's deep and abiding love for all people.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

HYMN: B- 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

1. Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

3. Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

**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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – (Please send your joys and concerns to
the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)**

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

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.

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.

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 lift before you those things that have brought joy into our lives...

We ask travel mercies on all who are traveling...

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Give comfort to those who mourn.

We take just a moment to pray for ourselves...

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. 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 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.

We are Sent Out to Love and Serve

Charge and Blessing

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

Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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