

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140
October 30, 2022 10:30 a.m.
Celebrating 208 years of Faithful Service to Our God
The Twenty First 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: The earth is the Lord's

P: and the fullness thereof,

L: the world

P: and all who dwell in it.

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, righteous judge of all, you sent Jesus among us to seek and to save those who are lost. Grant that we, like Zacchaeus of Jericho, may eagerly seek the Savior, joyfully welcome him into our homes and lives, and gladly do what is pleasing in his sight. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: B-332

“Live Into Hope”

1 Live into hope of captives freed, Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see The year of God's own jubilee!

2 Live into hope the blind shall see With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--A vision of our God brought near.

3 Live into hope of liberty, The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.

4 Live into hope of captives freed From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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 sin before God and one another 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: 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-352 “Spirit Song”

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *Refrain*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

² How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, “Violence!”
but you do not save?
³ Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.
I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

² Then the LORD replied:

“Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.

³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come
and will not delay.
⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness

PSALM: Psalm 119:137-144

¹³⁷ You are righteous, LORD,
and your laws are right.
¹³⁸ The statutes you have laid down are righteous;
they are fully trustworthy.
¹³⁹ My zeal wears me out,
for my enemies ignore your words.
¹⁴⁰ Your promises have been thoroughly tested,
and your servant loves them.
¹⁴¹ Though I am lowly and despised,
I do not forget your precepts.
¹⁴² Your righteousness is everlasting
and your law is true.
¹⁴³ Trouble and distress have come upon me,
but your commands give me delight.
¹⁴⁴ Your statutes are always righteous;
give me understanding that I may live.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

MESSAGE: ***Out on a Limb*** **Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

In today’s scripture we hear about a small man, not only in stature, but also in spirit. Zacchaeus is a man who is considered to be a traitor by his Jewish neighbors. He has sold out to the Roman Empire while doing their dirty work of collecting taxes. He is one of the least popular people in the town, even though he is one of the richest men. He has been driven by greed and he is left with no friends, no status, no integrity and no self-respect.

Zacchaeus finds himself in the middle of a crowd of people as an entourage enters Jericho and he really wants to see the person of importance coming into town. Because he is a vertically challenged individual, Zacchaeus is unable to see around the people or make his way through the crowd lining the road. So Zacchaeus does something unheard of for a self-respecting chief tax collector, he climbs a tree so that he can see who is coming.

Jesus comes into view and tells Zacchaeus that he will be hosting Jesus in his home. This is the absolute last thing that Zacchaeus was expecting, but he is delighted! It is in the moment that Jesus arrives, Zacchaeus feels the love of God. Zacchaeus is then able to claim his brokenness shown by his greed and repents giving half of his wealth to the poor. Zacchaeus has the courage to claim his deceitfulness to the townspeople and repents paying each one back four fold because he knows that through Jesus he can feel God’s grace, God’s mercy and God’s love knowing that he has been forgiven.

Jesus calls us - you , me, other people. He calls us to examine our lives and see where we have been broken by the world, by our choices, by our desires, by our stubbornness. As we look at our lives and see those times that we have turned our backs on God, we might feel ashamed and guilty. It is in that moment that Jesus calls us to put aside our guilt ridden lives and feel the power of forgiveness.

Jesus sees the pain we cause others - our friends, our families, our enemies, ourselves. He understands the hurt of betrayal and abuse at another's hand. When we reach out to mend the pain we have caused with merciful hands, Jesus calls us to receive God's mercy to soothe our own pain filled souls.

Jesus knows that there is nothing that you or I can pay. There is no fortune great enough for us to be forgiven by God for all the sin we have engaged in and there is no way that we can do enough good in this world to offset our sinful behavior. So God sent the son, Jesus to pay the price for our sins and because of his gracious act, Jesus call us to be gathered in by his grace.

Jesus came to tell the world that God's love is real and tangible and available through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That no matter how unloving we act toward each other or how much we feel unloved by circumstances or the people around us, we can rest assured that Jesus, as God's love personified, accepts each one of us as beloved children of God.

Jesus calls you and me to come down out of the tree of shame and guilt that we might be stuck in; to open our homes and invite Jesus to come be with us and our family. He calls us to see the broken behavior we have engaged in and find a way to make it right asking for forgiveness from those we have hurt. Jesus calls each one of us to be a disciple, putting aside the material things. Then He calls us to accept forgiveness and mercy while the grace of Jesus gathers us in and shows us just how much we are beloved children of God.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

HYMN: B-310 “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

1. Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest.

2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mind recall
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Savior of us all.

3. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!

4. But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show:
The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know.

5. Jesus, our only joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now, And through eternity.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One
of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign
of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and
binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and
calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for
blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of
human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this
Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin
and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in
death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory
be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Excerpt of
A Brief Statement of Faith)

**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

P: that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

P: Give us power to reveal Christ in work and action.

We pray for the world.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace,

P: 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.

P: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for those in need.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

P: May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

P: 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.

P: Loving God, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

P: Fill the emptiness of their loss with your never-ending peace.

We praise you for all of your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

P: May their examples inspire and encourage us.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries.

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

P: 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.

It is in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray as we say,

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-280 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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.

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

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

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

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.

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. 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