

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140

**February 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

**Celebrating 209 years of Faithful Service to Our God  
First Sunday in Lent**

*We Enter Into God's Presence*

**WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

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.

**OPENING SENTENCES**

L: Tested by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus said: *Matthew 4:10*

**P: You shall worship the Lord your God alone.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN: 166 “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”**

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

2 As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

3 And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide,  
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

4 Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

In the name of Christ, I urge you: be reconciled to God. *2 Corinthians 5:20*  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin as we pray together saying,

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(We share with God those things that lay heavy on our hearts in silence)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation!  
*2 Corinthians 6:2*

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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 -102 “His Name Is Wonderful”**

His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful,  
Jesus, my Lord; he is the mighty King, Master of everything,  
his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is he;  
bow down before him love and adore him, his name is Wonderful, Jesus  
my Lord.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through  
these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be  
reformed restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous,  
to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the  
Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the  
imprisoned spirits— <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God  
waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only  
a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water  
symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from  
the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at  
God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to  
him.

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD my God,  
I put my trust.

<sup>2</sup> I trust in you;  
do not let me be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> No one who hopes in you  
will ever be put to shame,  
but shame will come on those  
who are treacherous without cause.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, LORD,  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,  
for they are from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth

and my rebellious ways;  
according to your love remember me,  
for you, LORD, are good.  
<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.  
<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.  
<sup>10</sup> All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful  
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

**MESSAGE:**        *The Time Has Come!*

**Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

As we enter this season of Lent and hear once more that Jesus was tempted, I find it interesting that for some reason we believe that we will not be tempted. Oh, I don't mean tempted by another helping of food or an extra cookie, although that is also temptation. I mean, why do we think we are immune to the temptation of hurting other people? We like to pretend that we are above hurting another, that we are more civilized than that. But I have to wonder, are we really?

I guess I am wondering this because we have seen so many examples of people giving into the temptation to hurt others in recent weeks. We have heard about people who taunt those different than themselves with derogatory names or comments, and then say that it was a joke. I wonder

why it is that we fall prey to the temptation to make fun of someone else's ethnic heritage in such a hurtful way. Considering that so many of us were taught in school how to be good citizens in the world, I wonder why there continues to be these particular displays of disrespect. When witnessing this kind of shameful display of prejudice, I wonder why at least one other person in the space does not take a stand and say out loud "this is no way for us to treat our neighbors." Perhaps the time has come for Christians to take such a stand.

We often hear of a person in authority threatening the job security of those who are working in subordinate positions. I wonder why it is that that leadership falls prey to the temptation to bully. Some are tempted to say that the leader's words were taken out of context, which only makes light of the situation and excuses a person in power bullying another person with the use of a threat of personal harm. I wonder why a leader - in a position of power - would not demonstrate mercy or grace to those who are subordinate in an effort to use the opportunity to teach life skills as they lead by example. Instead of bullying and abusing their power, the leader could be responsible and demonstrate how it is that they show mercy and love to their neighbor through a better and more considerate use of thoughts, words, and deeds.

My heart hurts and I grieve deeply that there continue to be school shootings. We often hear the reports that speak of the shooter as a person with mental health issues who was manipulated by those who would feed into the shooter's illness and encourage the shooter to promote violence against others. Our conceit runs deep because we think that mental illness would never happen to us or someone we know. I wonder why it is that as a society we have fallen into the temptation to make mental health such a stigma. Often people who are suffering from mental health issues must live in shame while they attempt to traverse a maze, an insurance nightmare, in order to receive treatment for their issues. I wonder why it is that we as members of society are tempted to think that it is okay to just look the other way when there is a child or an adult who is clearly in need of mental health assistance. If that person had wounds that were visible and bleeding, we would go out of our way to see that they would get treatment. I wonder why it is that we do not do that for those whose wounds are internal. When do you think we will stand for the least of these and remember the words of Jesus to "Do to others as you would have them do to you?"

If we, as Christians understand that Jesus had the human experience of temptation, why are we lured into thinking that we will not be tempted to hurt others? The interesting thing about Jesus being tempted by Satan is that Jesus gave us a solid example of how we should resist temptation – how we should say for ourselves and the world to hear why we are not going to participate in the temptation. Jesus named the sin aloud and declared that to engage in the temptation would have been against the will of God.

My Friends, the time has come to resist the temptation of sticking our heads in the sand and ignoring the brokenness of the world around us. The time has come to rise up and point to the sin that we see being perpetrated against our neighbors. The time has come to recognize our call as Christians to do the will of God by loving our neighbor and caring for those in need. The time has come for each one of us to consider what does the LORD require of you? The LORD requires that we are to act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

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

#### **\*HYMN: 417                   “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

1 Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.  
From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strive.  
In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.  
Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

#### **\*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**

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**(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.

**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 INTERCESSION**

Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For your church around the world, we ask new life. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For all who carry out ministries in your church, we ask grace and wisdom. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines, we ask inspired discipleship. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For Christians in every land, we ask new unity in your name. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For Jews, Muslims, and people of other faiths, we ask your divine blessings. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who cannot believe, we ask your faithful love. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For governors and rulers of every land, we ask your guidance. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For people who suffer and sorrow, we ask your healing peace. Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the one who 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: 442      "Just as I Am, without One Plea"**

1 Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, Pardon cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

4 Just as I am. thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.



### **Blessing and Charge**

May the Spirit of the triune God strengthen and sustain you, all throughout these forty days and into the life that is to come. **Amen.**

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**

*\*Stand either in body or in spirit*

## **Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 11:30am –  
Lunch and Learn**

**Sunday, February 18, following service – Officers  
Training for newly elected Elders, Deacons and  
Trustees**

**Wednesday, February 21, 8:30am – Men's Breakfast**

**Sunday, March 3, 10:30am – Ordination and  
Installation of Officers**



**BETHEL MURDOCH**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Church Contact Information**

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**STAFF:** Church Secretary – Judi Ramey  
Organist – James Bronstrup  
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Rev. Dr. Deb Uchtman Email: [deb.uchtman@earthlink.net](mailto:deb.uchtman@earthlink.net)  
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**We believe that our mission is to:**

**Bring people to Jesus.**

**Equipping them for ministry**

**Teach them to love God and others**

**Heal the brokenhearted in loving family community**

**Enjoy God and each other**

**Live worshipful lives**