



SECOND SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

10:50 a.m.

## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

**Welcome**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

**Prelude**

*Max Jackson, Kim Whitman, flute*

Prelude on "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Donald Dice

**Call to Worship**

*Kathleen Filkins*

Leader: God remembers and visits us and restores us to the community of faith.

**People: In our pain, suffering and loss, we know the assurance of God's presence.**

Leader: When we have opposition and hopeless situations, God bears us up on eagles' wings.

**People: In the loneliness of our firm idealism, God grants healing and transformation.**

Leader: Whatever we need as we gather to worship, a merciful and loving God meets us here.

**People: We assemble with high expectations that God has much good in store for us.**

Leader: The good gifts God bestows on us here are for our use in reaching out to others.

**People: May we use our blessings in the service of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

† **Hymn of Praise**

#744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your Light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your Light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your Light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your Light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

For our preoccupation with things; for believing we would be happy if we only had more; for neglecting family in the pursuit of advancement; for giving low priority to the kingdom of God; for judging right and wrong on the basis of profit; for allowing discontent to cloud our lives; for pampering the body while starving the soul. With cries and petitions, forgive us Lord. We call out to You in the midst of our hurting. In the agony of our pain, we reach for You. In the turmoil of our brokenness, we plead for Your healing touch. Save us, O God. Save us from death, illness, pain, depression, fear, loneliness, violence, and hate. We desire Your grace and providential care for us in every area of life and cling to Your assurance of love and acceptance. Forgive us, Lord, for our preoccupation with the things of the world, and enable us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#182 (1)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon My breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad.  
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

**Children's Message**

*Lisa Stevens*

**Anthem**

*Chancel Choir*

My Song Is Love Unknown

Mark Schweizer

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.  
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and  
die? Christ came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow,  
But people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know.

(continued next page)

But O my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend!  
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine. Never was love,  
dear King, never was grief like Thine. This is my Friend, in whose  
sweet praise I all my days would gladly spend.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **The Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 58:6–9 (NRSV)

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your Vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and He will say, "Here I am."

L: The Word of the Lord.    **P: Thanks be to God**

#### **Psalm 107**

#653 (1,2,3,6)

#### Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days  
with wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise.  
Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful songs always.

If you have ever wandered where no human help was near,  
and in your trouble cried to God, who rescued you from fear,  
then thank the God of steadfast love who dries your every tear.

If you have ever lived inside the prison of your gloom  
and cried to God, who broke your bonds  
and raised you from your tomb,  
then praise the One who sets you free,  
who makes dry places bloom.

So, praise the One whose love is great,  
whose kindness is well-known.

Consider well the healing hand and help you have been shown,  
and tell the world what God has done.

Praise God and God alone!

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 8:26–39 (NRSV)

<sup>26</sup> Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As He stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” <sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. <sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, He gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

***When Easter Comes – Freedom!***

✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

† Hymn of Response

#181

Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!" cried God's healing Holy One.

"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it;

flee as night before the sun."

At Christ's voice the demon trembled,

from its victim madly rushed,

while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder,

stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving in the gray cells of the mind:

tyrant voices, shrill and driving,

twisted thoughts that grip and bind,

doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason's sight,

guilt that makes our loving frantic,

dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit in our mind and in our heart;

speak Your word that when we hear it,

all our demons shall depart.

Clear our thought and calm our feeling;

still the fractured, warring soul.

By the power of Your healing make us faithful, true, and whole.

† Affirmation of Faith

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. 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 quick 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.**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Acknowledgement**

*Special Offering: CARES*

† **Doxology**

#711 (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.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty. Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be Thou still my strength and shield;  
be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

**Postlude**

*Max Jackson*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Alan Viner

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing if you are able.*

**SERVING TODAY**

Head Usher: *Cathy Wilson*

Liturgist: *Kathleen Filkins*

## LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 69  
Clean Start: \$2.00  
Easter Towel Fundraiser: \$120.00  
General Offering: \$1,189.00  
Memorial Fund: \$120.00  
Online Giving: \$345.00  
Poinsettias: \$30.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$110.00  
**Total Offering: \$1,916.00**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ► **Sunday, February 25**

Sunday Morning Study, 9:18 a.m.  
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.  
Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

► **Monday, February 26:** Empty Nest Angels, 5:30 p.m.

► **Tuesday, February 27:** Session Meeting., 5:30 p.m.

### ► **Wednesday, February 28**

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans  
AAMA Lenten Worship Service, Noon, First Christian Church  
Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### **Caring With Heart New Session To Begin**



We are again offering *Caring With Heart*. It is a 6-week class that will meet on **Thursdays from 5:30–7:30 p.m.** beginning **March 7**. The class will be led by Kay Ferguson. *Caring With Heart* teaches principles and skills to equip you to provide quality, Christ-centered emotional and

spiritual care for yourself and others. There is a sign-up sheet located in the Narthex or see Kay Ferguson.

### **We Need Candy!**

We are collecting candy for the Kids' Easter Jam (Sunday, March 24), we would like to have all donations by **Sunday, March 17**.



### Ladies Clothing Swap

The Ladies Clothing Swap is scheduled for **Saturday, March 9 from 2 - 4 p.m.** You may begin bringing in your donated items now. Please place them in the hallway beside the kitchen. If you need anything picked up or have questions, please contact Barb Payne (606.922.6617).

Ladies Clothing Swap



### FPC 205<sup>th</sup> Celebration Fundraiser

We have beautiful Easter towels for sale. The congregational Life Ministry Team will receive 50% of the total sales to help cover the cost of the celebration luncheon. These were created by Sew Blessed member, and our friend, Toni Gabbert. Delivery is within 2 weeks of order; each towel is \$15. Order forms are in the Narthex. The final day to order is **Sunday, March 24**. Please direct questions to Kelly Hanni, 606.923.7826.

### Food Pantry Drive

We are collecting food for the Ashland Youth Service Center Pantry. The Food Drive is **February 18—March 24**. You may place your items in the container in the Narthex. Items needed:

Pop Tarts	Granola Bars	Chef Boy R Dee	Packaged Cookies
Instant Oatmeal	Mac n Cheese	Canned Tuna	Ramen Noodles
Cereal Bars	Knorr's Fiesta Sides Rice	Gripz	Trail Mix
Spaghetti Noodles	Peanut Butter	Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers	Canned Chicken Soup (w/beef, chicken, or potatoes)
Canned Pasta Sauce	Cheez-Its		

### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

This offering provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We will receive this offering through March. Please note on your check or a pew envelope: *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Week ending February 22, 2024

Charlie Holbrook  
Jim Price (Amy Crookes)  
Suzannah Price (Amy Crookes)  
Margaret Ruth (Kelly Hanni)  
Carol Sanderson  
Rachael Turner (Kathleen Filkins' daughter)  
Kim Whitman

### Week ending February 15, 2024

Kim Haymaker (John & Kay Ferguson's niece)  
Kenny and Fetima McGill  
Family of Brody James Reynolds (Max & Lois Jackson)  
Tim Shepard (Bonnie Pettijohn's son)

### Week ending February 8, 2024

Rachel Chambers  
Jane Justice  
Joe Lane (Lee McCloud's father)  
Jody Lowman (Kelly & Nanette)  
Jan Michel (Pastor Bill & Nanette)

*Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.*

**Ongoing:** Gretchen Dillon; Kenny McGill, Derek Payne; Nancy Payne, Bonnie Pettijohn, Jan Winans

**The Lantern:** Barry Barbour

**Morning Pointe:** Carolyn Graber

**Oakmont Manor:** Annie Miller

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, Dayton, OH, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

# Sermon Notes

today is: \_\_\_\_\_

sermon title: \_\_\_\_\_

key verses: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes

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worship songs: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Prayers

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## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2024	2025	2026
<i>Lee McCloud</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>
<i>J.T. Norris</i>	<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>
<i>Cathy Wilson*</i>	<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>
		*2nd term of service

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>TBD</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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