

He has sent me



to bind up the



Brokenhearted



Isaiah 61:1



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Winchester Bells

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Kevin McChesney

Call to Worship

Charlie Holbrook

Leader: Friends, let us approach worship today with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

People: With our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Leader: Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,

People: For He who has promised is faithful.

Leader: Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

People: Let us encourage one another as we meet together today.

All: Praise the Lord! Amen.

† **Hymn of Praise**

#353

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace, in every high and stormy gale, my Anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be
found, dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

God of wholeness, we build up walls and hide ourselves from others. The pain of others is too much to deal with. The struggles of the world are too much to bear. We'd much rather just focus on our own lives, jobs, and families. But God, You have called us to be Your people, a people of the covenant in which You are *our* God, not only *my* God. You have called us to be the people of the New Commandment, which is to love one another. We cannot go it alone. We cannot put blinders on and build up our dividers. Guide our hands to reach out across walls, our eyes to see beyond ourselves, so that we might participate in the healing of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to bring us life that we might have it abundantly, we pray. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us Lord, to pray,
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then by Your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread Your peace.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

John Ferguson

Anthem

Chancel Choir

O Heavenly Word

Richard Shephard

O heavenly Word, eternal Light, begotten of the Father's might;
Who, in these latter days, was born, for blessing to a world forlorn.
Our hearts enlighten from above, and kindle with thine own true
love; That we, who hear Thy truth today, all wrong desires may cast
away. O let us not, for evil past, be driven from Thy face at last; But
with the saints forever more, Behold Thee, love Thee, and adore. To
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, ever one; Praise,
honor, might and glory be, from age to age eternally. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NRSV)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because the Lord has anointed Me; He has sent Me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display His glory.

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

Psalm 84

#402

How Lovely, Lord

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is Your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon Your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so Your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In Your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from You should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim You as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are You, O Lord Most High;
You shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, Your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall
go, and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

† The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 9:2–8 (NRSV)

And some people were carrying to Him a paralyzed man lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, child; your sins are forgiven." ³ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —He then said to

the paralytic— “Stand up, take your bed, and go to your home.”
7 And he stood up and went to his home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

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

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

A Faith Story

✠ We Respond to God’s Word ✠

† **Hymn of Response** (tune: Dix)

#684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory’s roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God’s great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God’s grace.

† **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

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: CARES

† Doxology

For this Thy glad Epiphany all glory Jesus, be to Thee.
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

† Prayer of Dedication

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† Hymn of Sending

#546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing.

fill our hearts with joy and peace;

let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks, we give and adoration for Your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.

Ever faithful, ever faithful to Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us,

from our struggling pilgrim way,

let no fear of death appall us, glad Your summons to obey.

May we ever, may we ever reign with You in endless day.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Voluntary in D Major

John Bennett

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Cathy Wilson*

Liturgist: *Charlie Holbrook*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 56

Backpacks: \$50.00

CARes: \$50.00

Clean Start: \$20.00

General Offering: \$13,636.00

Memorial Fund: \$200.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$150.00

Online Giving: \$125.00

Total Offering: \$14,231.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, January 28

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, January 29

Sew Blessed, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30

Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

The Sanctuary will be open the first Wednesday of the month beginning next **Wednesday, February 7** from **5:30 –8 p.m.** for you to come and meditate, reflect on God's love and/or pray.

Volunteers will let you in at the door at the top of the front steps.

If you have any questions, see Heather Shay.



Fat Tuesday BRUNCH

Join us for “Fat Tuesday Brunch” on **Sunday, February 11** immediately following Morning Worship. The menu is:

pancakes, sausage, breakfast casseroles, yogurt, fruit, and donuts. The church fair will also take place. This is an opportunity for you to discover the various ministries provided through FPC. You also can sign up for a ministry in which you would like to take part.



Join us **Wednesday, February 14** for an Ash Wednesday Service beginning at **7 p.m.** The Imposition of Ashes will be offered. This service prepares us as we begin our Lenten reflection on a journey to a garden, a cross, and an empty tomb.



Horizons Bible Study: Monday, Feb. 5, 6 p.m.

Open Sanctuary: Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:30—8 p.m.

Men’s Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.

Paper Angels: Thursday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Brunch: Sunday, Feb. 11, Noon

Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service: Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Dames & Dinner: Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.

First Sunday in Lent: Feb. 18

Sew Blessed: Monday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m.

Finance Ministry Team: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m.

Men’s Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Feb. 22, 11:30 a.m.

Paper Angels: Thursday, Feb. 22, 1 p.m.

Second Sunday in Lent: Feb. 25

Empty Nest Angels: Monday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m.

Session Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Week ending January 25, 2024

Ron Reed (Cathy Wilson)
Tim Shepard (Bonnie Pettijohn's son)

Week ending January 18, 2024

Bridget Heighton (Barb Payne's friend)
Jane Justice
Jan Michel (Pastor Bill & Nanette)
Judy Oakley (Pam Potter's friend)
Wilma Potter

(Lois Jackson's sister and Pam & Roger Potter's sister-in-law)

Week ending January 11, 2024

Raechel Chambers
Margaret Ruth (Kelly Hanni)
Rachael Turner (Kathleen Filkins' daughter)

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)

Thank you for the birthday celebration last Sunday. It made my day extra special. I'm so grateful for my church family.

- Nanette

Sermon Notes

today is: _____

sermon title: _____

key verses: _____

Notes

worship songs: _____

Prayers

Puzzle!

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

CODE:									
A	≡	E	♪	I	♪	O	♪	U	■
B	♩	F	♪	L	>	P	♪	V	☺
C	♭	G	♪	M	♭	R	♩	W	#
D	♪	H	♪	N	♪	S	∴	X	∞
				T	■			Y	♯

Challenge: What do we commonly call this song?

The

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.; The
 Doxology

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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