#### Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

# 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**November 19, 2023** 

The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.

#### **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

Most High God, create in me the grace of hospitality and love for my neighbor. Open my heart and eyes to those I would not ordinarily think of extending your love towards. Remove judgment from my mind and use me as an extension of your acceptance and search for those that feel unwanted. Amen.

## **Gathering Music**

## The Gathering of God's People

#### Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"The Ash Grove" with "Thanks Be to God"

arr. Anna Laura Page

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** "Take Thou My Hand"

Friedrich Silcher, 1842

Take thou my hand and lead me; stay by my side

Till in thy joy eternal I may abide.

Alone I will not wander one single day.

Be thou my true companion and with me stay.

#### \*Call to Worship (Psalm 90)

Leader: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of

men.

People: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just

gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Leader: You sweep men away in the sleep of death;

People: they are like the new grass of the morning;

Leader: though in the morning it springs up new,

People: by evening it is dry and withered.

Leader: All our days pass away under your wrath;

People: we finish our years with a moan.

All: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

\*Hymn

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

#357

## The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want. We lie down when we could act, we stir the pot when we could offer peace, we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them, we see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Response Hymn

"Gloria Patri"

#581

# **Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination** 

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Choir Anthem** "We Are The Lord's"

We are the Lord's; his all sufficient merit, Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords. We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit; Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. We are the Lord's; then let us gladly tender arr. Roland Martin Thomas Lloyd, English horn Our souls to him in deeds, not empty words. Let heart and tongue and life combine to render No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; no darkness brooding over us
Can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us—
Faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's; no evil can befall us
In the dread hour of life's fast loosening cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord's.

# **Second Scripture Reading**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.** 

Sermon

"Time in a Bottle!"

Pastor Steve Watters

Matthew 25:14-30

# The Response to the Word

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he arose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*Hymn

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

#377

# Prayers of the People and 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.

#### **Invitation to Offering**

\*Response

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" (v. 1)

#708

\*Prayer of Dedication

## The Sending of God's People

\*Closing Hymn

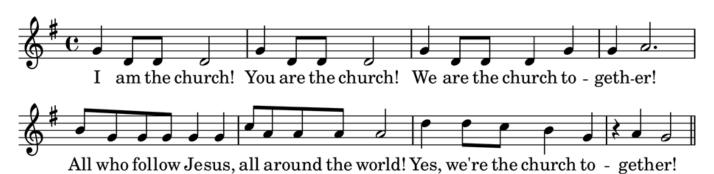
"We Shall Overcome"

#379

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

\*Postlude "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"

arr. Anna Laura Page

**Pastors:** Steven A. Watters

**Music Director**: Thomas Lloyd

Rev. Désirée Youngblood

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**<u>Liturgist</u>**: Paul Oswalt

<u>Flowers</u>: Given by Harriet Dana, for the Glory of God and the enjoyment of the congregation.

Paul Oswalt is an Elder and Deacon and member of the Chancel Choir. He also facilitates the Flock of Ages adult Sunday School class. Originally from Centerburg, Ohio, he married into town and joined First Presbyterian Church of London in 1997. He has two daughters ... Leila is pursuing a Master's degree at Case Western Reserve and Kyla is a freshman at Bowling Green. Paul participates in Madison County Arts Council summer productions and organizes the Music Men & Jen barbershop quartet. He works fulltime for the Madison County Auditor.