

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

arr. Gregg Sewell

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “O God of Love”

Thurlow Weed, 2013

O God of Love, O Lord of all the earth,
Give peace, O God, O Lord give peace again.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Let love be genuine;

People: Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

Leader: Love one another with brotherly affection;

People: Outdo one another in showing honor.

Leader: Never flag in zeal,

People: Be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, deliver us from knowledge that puffs us up and makes us insensitive to other’s needs. We confess that sometimes our freedom has offended another’s conscience, and our carelessness has caused others to stumble and fall. Our actions have not been consistent with what we say we believe. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to a meaningful covenant with you and other seekers after your truth. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn “Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v. 1)**

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

John 17:20-26

Choir Anthem

“Shout with Joy to God!”

Lloyd Larson, 1992

(refrain) Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
Sing glory to his name!
Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
His glorious praise proclaim!

How awesome are your deeds!
Sing glory to his name!
The earth bows down to you.
His glorious praise proclaim! (refrain)
Come and see what our God has done;
How awesome his works on our behalf!
How he turned the sea into dry land!
Oh, come and rejoice in him. (refrain)

Come, let us rejoice in him!
Sing glory to his name!
He rules us by his power;
His glorious praise proclaim! (refrain)
Praise our God; let the sounds be heard;
For he has set us on solid ground.
He preserved our lives through the tests & trials.
O come and rejoice in him. (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Love Builds Up”

Rev. Désirée Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Confession of 1967

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

***Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#366

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**

“Doxology”

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

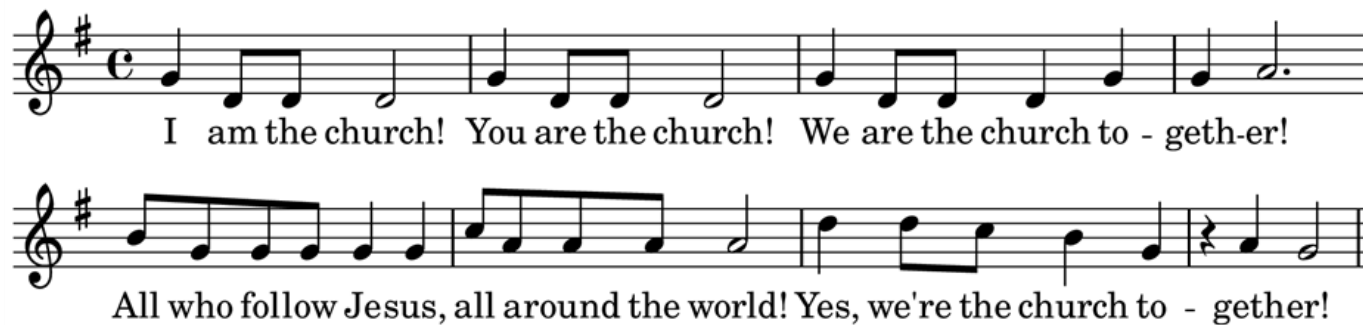
***Closing Hymn**

“We Are One in the Spirit”

#300

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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*Postlude “When in Our Music God Is Glorified” arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Rosebud: The red rosebud is in celebration of Margot Elizabeth Mowell’s birth, Andrew and Katherine Mowell’s daughter. Margot was born on December 14, 2023, weighing 7 lbs. Please join us in celebrating her birth.

Cherie was born and raised Hamilton, Ohio. She and her husband, Steve, are transplants to central Ohio, having moved to London in 1987. They have a blended family of 5 children, and 8 grandchildren ... the oldest is 19, and the youngest is 9 months. Cherie has a deep love for animals, and has had multiple dogs and cats over the years, along with a ferret at one time. Today, she has resigned herself to one cat, Annie, and one dog, Finn, a long haired German Shepherd who many of you have met.

Cherie is an avid reader, enjoys the occasional jigsaw puzzle, and loves her flower gardens. The vegetable garden she leaves to Steve’s care. She loves all things Irish/Celtic, hiking, and being in the woods. Hocking Hills is a favorite getaway. Cherie & Steve love to spend time with their grandchildren, plan family get-togethers when time allows, and just being together.