

SUGAR CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, March 16, 2025 ☞ Second Sunday in Lent ☞ 10:30 AM

❖ Those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

Celtic Medley

Traditional; arr. Stephen Estep

Kenneth Bechtel, violin; Stephen Estep, piano

WELCOME AND SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Rev. Amy Duiker

INVITATION TO SILENCE

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Dan Gouge, liturgist

Return to the Lord your God,

for God is gracious.

Confess to the Lord your God,

for God is merciful.

Repent to the Lord your God,

for God is slow to anger.

Praise the Lord your God,

for God abounds in steadfast love.

Worship the Lord your God.

Together, let us worship God!

❖ HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Blue #298

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Just and merciful God, we come before you with hesitant steps and uncertain motives. Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin. We want to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated and uncover the places where we have strayed from your truth. We ask for courage to open our eyes and unstop our ears that we may be aware of all that distracts us from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ. We want to see ourselves as you do and live our lives as you intended. Expose in us the empty and barren places where we have not allowed you to enter. Reveal to us our half-hearted struggles, where we have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of others. Nurture the faint stirrings of new life where your Spirit has taken root and begun to grow. We long for your healing light to transform us into the image of your Son, for you alone can bring new life and make us whole. In your mercy, shine upon us, O God, and make our path clear before us.

SILENT CONFESSION

A time for self-examination and silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

❖ GLORY TO GOD

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Blue #83 v5

All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad:

The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

BLESSING THE YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Erin Dickerson

SPECIAL MUSIC

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte

Brad Mattingly, soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Turning Points

Rev. Amy Duiker

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO SILENCE

❖ HYMN

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Blue #452

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Worshippers are invited to speak their name and briefly share joys and concerns as we pray with and for one another.

After each request, the pastor will say: Lord, in your mercy.

*The congregation responds: **Hear our prayer.***

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO THE WAY OF JESUS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*

Naomi Shemer

Kenneth Bechtel, violin; Stephen Estep, piano

❖ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit, who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD IN THE WORLD

❖ HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown

Blue #76

❖ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato from Violin Concerto

Jean Sibelius

Kenneth Bechtel, violin; Stephen Estep, piano

The Call to Worship is by Daniel Commerford.

The Prayer of Confession was adapted from patmosabbey.org.

Welcome Kenneth Betchel on Violin

Kenneth Bechtel is our guest musician today. He is a junior at Cedarville University and will be giving his recital at 3:00 pm on March 30 in the recital hall inside the Dixon Ministry Center. Music will be by Sibelius, Mozart, and Schoenfield; Stephen Estep will be accompanying, and the recital is free and open to the public. Visit stephenestep.com for directions.

Emergency Contact Phone Set-Up

Do you have an Emergency Contact, Medical ID, or Emergency SOS set up on your mobile phone so that first responders can access it even if you are unresponsive and your phone is locked? Help is on the way! If you have no idea how to do that, our Deacons and Youth will be available after worship on April 6 to help you set it up. Sign up on the blue sheet and let us know what brand or operating system phone you have (Apple, Android – Samsung, Google, Motorola, Jitterbug, Lively, or other).

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Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm



There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

1. There's a wide-ness in God'smer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;

There's a kind-ness in God'sjus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

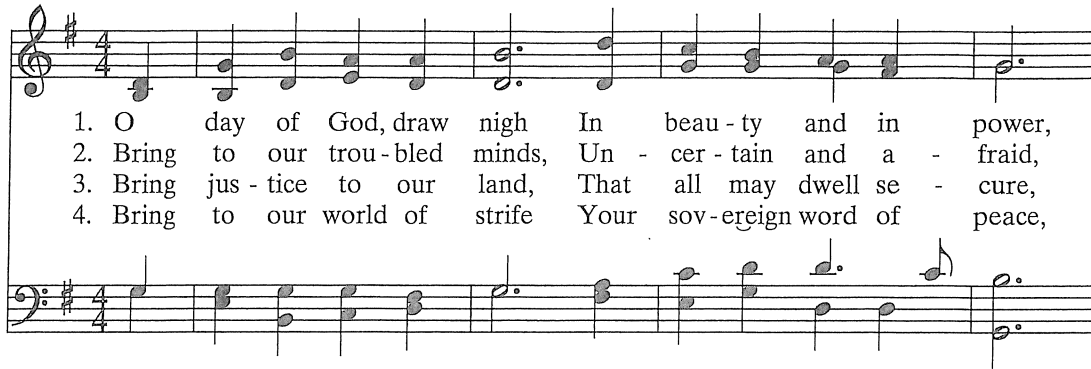
O Day of God, Draw Nigh

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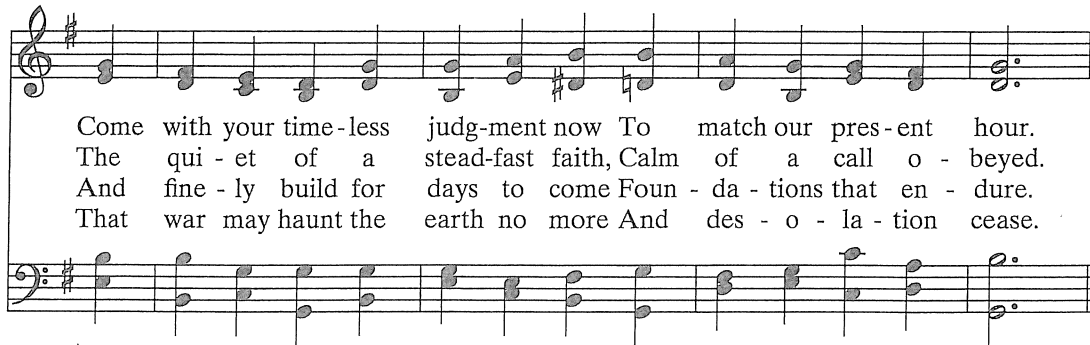
ST. MICHAEL SM

Robert B. Y. Scott, 1937, 1939; alt. 1972

Genevan Psalter, 1551
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836



1. O day of God, draw nigh In beau - ty and in power,
2. Bring to our trou - bled minds, Un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3. Bring jus - tice to our land, That all may dwell se - cure,
4. Bring to our world of strife Your sov - ereign word of peace,



Come with your time - less judg - ment now To match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, Calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come Foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more And des - o - la - tion cease.

5. O day of God, draw nigh
As at creation's birth;
Let there be light again, and set
Your judgments in the earth.

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My Song Is Love Unknown

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LOVE UNKNOWN 6.6.6.6.4.4.4.4

Samuel Crossman, 1664

John Ireland, 1918

1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me, Love
 2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow, But
 3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing, Re -
 4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way; A
 5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine: Nev -

to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be. O who am
 peo - ple scorned and none The longed-for Christ would know. But O my
 sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King. Then "Cru - ci -
 mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay. Yet stead-fast
 er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine. This is my

I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
 Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
 He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
 Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

Text Us!

Are you a newcomer to Sugar Creek looking to connect? Text the word WELCOME to 937-777-3495.

Generations Inspiring Faith Together ~ See you April 9

Come join this vibrant intergenerational ministry on the 2nd and 4th

Wednesdays of the month in

the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 – 7:45 pm.

Faith Formation *Fellowship* *Food*

Join Us On a Trip to Jungle Jim's

The Fellowship and Hospitality Commission is encouraging people to go on a trip to Jungle Jim's in Fairfield, Ohio, on Monday, March 24. As many of you may know, Jungle Jim's is one of the world's largest International Markets, with over 200,000 products. And a couple of things it is known for are organic products and great produce. On the 24th, we will meet at the church at 10am, eat lunch in Fairfield, shop at Jungle Jim's, and be back at the church around 3pm. Please sign up on the blue sheet, and if you have any questions, see Sue Weber or Barb Neyhouse.

Caregiver Support Group Interest Meeting ~ TODAY

Are you a major caregiver for a parent, spouse, or other family member? Could you benefit from connecting with others experiencing similar challenges for support and encouragement? Come to a listening meeting after worship TODAY to explore what specific ways a regular group might be helpful. A pizza and salad lunch will be provided by our Deacons; meeting led by Amy and Neal Duiker.

Join our New Welcome Team

Do you have gifts for hospitality and creating a welcoming environment in person or online? Could you give a little time and energy toward working on ways for Sugar Creek to be more open and welcoming to our community and help our neighbors get close enough to see what's meaningful about sharing life in Christ with us? Pastor Amy is putting together a Welcome Team to look at outdoor, indoor, and online spaces and practices like greeting, giving, signage, website and Facebook updates, welcome gifts, guest follow up, and more. If you're interested in serving or finding out more, talk to Pastor Amy or sign up on the blue sheet.

PW Easter Candy Making

The Presbyterian Women invite you to help make candy on April 5 from 10:00 am—3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

You can also join them to box up the candy on April 12 from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Lunch will also be provided on this day.