

Renewal of Vows Sunday

8th Sunday After Pentecost



**July 26, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

**or in the afternoon on our
church website at
westminsterakron.org**

*We welcome you to Westminster's
online worship service and Renewal
of Wedding Vows this Sunday. To set*

*a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you
to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's
bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.*

COME

Opening Voluntary Adagio from Sonata in F Minor Felix Mendelssohn

*Call to Worship Ecclesiastes 4:9 Jacquie Mabry

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

**To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the
grace of Jesus Christ.**

*Hymn 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!
2. What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye
ne'er sleepeth; Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo!
All is just and all is right: To God all praise and glory!
3. The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!
4. Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*Response 567 Glory Be to the Father *Gloria Patri*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

Musical Reflection You Raise Me Up *Paul and Valerie Stewart, soloists*

*When I am down and oh, my soul's so weary,
When troubles come, and my heart burdened be,
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders,
You raise me up to more than I can be.*

*There is no life, no life without its hunger.
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly.
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders,
You raise me up to more than I can be.*

*You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders,
You raise me up to more than I can be.
You raise me up...*

*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures
here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The First Lesson Colossians 3:12-17 New Testament

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 New Testament

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for
tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the
complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke
like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult,
I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we
will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I
have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and
the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Interdependence

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

Renewal of Vows

Let us reaffirm now the promises made in marriage, knowing that your grace will always be sufficient. By the power of your Holy Spirit, bless our memories and strengthen our hopes, that our joy may overflow.

At this time, spouses are encouraged to join right hands and to say the following together:

We once stood before God and pledged our love for one another. Today, I reaffirm this vow to love and honor you, giving thanks for what has been and looking forward to all that will be. I will continue to share the journey of life with you in faith and in hope, with God's help. In word and in deed, may my commitment serve as a sign of our love, reaffirmed in tender hope for what lies ahead; in the name of God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen all couples with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit, so that they may fulfill the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days.

And enable us all, O God, in each of our homes and lives to do your will. Enrich us with your grace so that, encouraging and supporting one another, we may serve those in need and hasten the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth.

Lord, our God, wherever we live, we need you. Wherever we live, you call us to serve you. We pray for those who are single, whether it be by choice or circumstance, and for those who live alone, especially now, as quarantine precautions have complicated relationships and distanced family members and friends from one another.

We pray for those who long for enduring relationships, for those who have lost the companionship of a spouse, and for those who remember with fondness the friendship and personal touch that is no longer present in their lives. We pray for those who are now separated or divorced, and for all who are grieving the death of their beloved.

So too, O God, we pray for those who live in community, as family or friends, who, alone or together, care for children or aging adults, who provide foster care, who live in college or university housing, who live on military bases or camps, who live in prisons, who live as refugees, who live in group homes, nursing homes, or care facilities, who are displaced from their homes, who live with conflict, and for those who do not have a home.

We pray that you will provide for all of your children - those among us and those around us - homes of shelter and safety, communities of loving encouragement and support, opportunities to live as faithful disciples of Jesus and ministers of Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

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.**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Ephesians 4:2-3 and 2 Corinthians 13:13

I encourage you to live in all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Voluntary

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

*Funding for today's soloists was provided by the
Seiberling Music Endowment fund.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Dave and Karen Grau in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary on July 31st.

First Sunday Drive-In/Drop-Off Food Collection – August 2, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Needed Items:

12 oz to 16 oz Boxed Spaghetti	Boxed Macaroni & Cheese Mix
Canned Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Green Beans, Corn and Carrots
Canned Tuna	Canned Chicken Breast
Rice/Pasta w/Cheese Side Mix	Jell-O Gelatin
Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pears, or Fruit Cocktail)	
Canned Soup (Vegetable, Tomato or Chicken Noodle)	

The value of each bag is approximately \$12.50.

The Third Sunday Dinner/Free Hot Meal The Third Sunday Dinner will resume with a drive in option for August 16 with service times from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will be following social distance guidance and have simplified our staffing needs, but still will need volunteers to help with traffic control and running food to cars. Please sign up on WPC website under Deacons/Volunteers, Free 3RD Sunday Dinner, and click on Volunteer Sign-up.

Flat Jesus We would love to have anyone, any age, join in our Flat Jesus Adventure for the rest of the summer. Just download Flat Jesus at <http://www.westminsterakron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Flat-Jesus-cutout.pdf>, color it and cut it out and take him along with you. Jesus on a walk in the MetroParks, Jesus at dinner with you, Jesus at your bedside. Jesus is always with you! How does it affect you? Does it give you support, maybe make you act differently? Sometimes a concrete representation of someone gives you a new insight. Send your pictures to wpcsmmedia1250@gmail.com. Have fun with this project! We also have some Flat Jesus already made that you can find in the puzzle box outside of the education wing at church.

*Read the last update from Session on COVID19, July 22, 2020
on WPC website under Current Updates page.*

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon.



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