

## A close-up photograph of a flowering plant with large, bright pink, four-petaled flowers and green leaves, growing over a white wooden fence. The background shows a dark, leafy bush.

**or on Monday on our church  
website at  
westminsterakron.org**

*Today's service focuses on themes of healing and renewal. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

# COME

REFRAIN There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
And then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

#### REFRAIN

2. Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge, He'll not refuse to lend.

#### REFRAIN

3. If you cannot preach like Peter, If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, And say, "He died for all."

#### REFRAIN

## ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Romans 8:39

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.  
Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Prayer of Confession

**God of Healing and Restoration; You are the creator of all things  
O God. We know that in you and you alone do we live and move and  
have our being. The Bible tells of your wonderful deeds; our hymns  
declare your greatness; our prayers rely upon your faithfulness.  
And yet O God, we too often wonder if you are really there. We too  
often wonder if you really are able to care for us. We too often  
wonder if the healing we need is simply too much for you. Forgive  
us O God. Forgive us when your glory is lost in our worrying.  
Forgive us and heal us that we might be restored to your service  
and healed for your glory. 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

Paul reminds us to take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God.

Musical Reflection

Precious Lord

Thomas A. Dorsey  
*Ben Hayes, soloist*

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near when my life is almost gone. Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall, Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near, And the day is past and gone, At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand, Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

\*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

Providing God, by your Holy Spirit feed us with your Word, that we might be filled with the bread of life. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Mark 6:53-56

New Testament

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The Second Lesson

Matthew 14:14-21

New Testament

14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Sermon

Compassion

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

# SERVE

## Candle Lighting Ceremony

God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is health and salvation; **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance; **Have mercy on us.**  
Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence;  
**Have mercy on us.**

*[The pastor lights the first candle].*

Compassionate God, you are good to all. Help us to trust in you and to share what we have with a hungry world. We pray for your church universal, that our relations with other religions may be respectful and abounding in steadfast love. Enable us to join with people of all faiths to work for the well-being of all your children.

**Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”**

*[The pastor lights the second candle].*

We pray for the earth and all the creatures who look to you for their food in due season. May we do our part in restoring the balance of your creation and deepen our commitment to follow Jesus in ministries that feed and serve others.

**Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”**

*[The pastor lights the third candle].*

We pray for all the people of the world, for their ethnic groups, nations, and leaders, that wars will cease, that the hungry will be fed, and that refugees will return home in safety and peace.

**Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”**

*[The pastor lights the fourth candle].*

We pray for all who suffer from physical ills and for all those who wrestle with you for personal identity and spiritual peace. May they find their truth without money and peace without cost.

**Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”**

*[The pastor lights the fifth candle].*

Gracious and merciful God, abounding in steadfast love, we join our voices with all that you have made in speaking your praises and blessing your name, for, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you are just in all your ways and kind in all your doings. **Amen.**

*[The pastor lights the sixth candle].*

To the Holy One, the Everlasting God, the Ancient of Days; to the Source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers. For all who are in need of healing,  
*[Silence]*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who are disabled by injury or illness *[Silence]*  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

*[The pastor lights the seventh candle].*

May the Spirit of the living God, present with us now; enter you, body, mind and spirit and heal you of all that harms you, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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

**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.**

\* Closing Hymn                      Go, My Children, with My Blessing                      AR HYD Y NOS

1.     Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
      Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;  
      In my love's baptismal river  
      I have made you mine forever,  
      Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
2.     Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure;  
      Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;  
      Here you heard my Son's dear story,  
      Here you touched him, Saw his glory,  
      Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
3.     Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
      Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
      Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
      Here his tender comfort stilled you;  
      Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

\*Charge and Benediction

Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.  
May God be gracious to you and give you peace, now and forevermore.

Voluntary

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Traditional

*Funding for today's soloist was provided by the  
Brideweser Music Endowment fund.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Flowers On One Pedestal** are given with love and in honor of Anna Marie Wilton by the Celtic Gardeners, Westminster Flower Arrangers, and members of many committees on which she served.

**The flowers On The Second Pedestal** are given in loving memory of Elaine Young by her husband, Jerry.

**Script September/October Deadline** Our next Script newsletter will feature church events from September 13 - October 31. The absolute deadline for submissions is Sunday, August 30. Thank you in advance for your submissions.

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, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley.