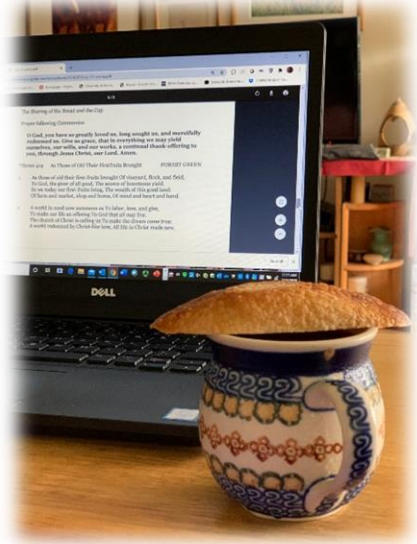


15th Sunday After Pentecost



**September 13, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Opening Voluntary God of Grace and God of Glory Paul Manz
Ethan Symonds, trumpet

We welcome you to Westminster's online worship service 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.

Today, we will be celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion together. Please have your bread and juice nearby and be prepared to partake at the appropriate time.

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.

*Call to Worship Harriet Chapman

In your wisdom, O God, you call us to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

1. Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
To God Creator, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

God's Word assures us: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, the One who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our

opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be charitable in our regard for others that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. 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

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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

Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our financial resources so that our treasure is in heaven and our giving pleases God.

Anthem One Faith, One Hope, One Lord Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, One church for which He died. One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be evermore. There is one body, one Spirit, As you were called to one hope. One Lord, baptism and faith, One God and Savior of all, Who is in you all. One faith, one hope, one Lord, One church for which He died. One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be evermore.

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, We are given to each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ. One faith, one hope, one Lord...

*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

Sheila Svoboda

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit open our understanding that we may receive the Word of life. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Matthew 18:21-33

New Testament

21 Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:7-12

New Testament

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Sermon

Belonging

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose from the dead, he appeared to some of his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of bread. Come, then, to the joyful feast of our Lord.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of God in creation.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe. At your command all things came to be. By your will, the vast expanse of space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home, were all created and have their being.

You brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us stewards of creation, but we turned against you and betrayed your trust.

Yet your mercy is like a spring that never fails. You yourself, in Christ your Son, come to deliver us: you redeem us in your love; you create new heavens and a new earth where the cry of distress is heard no more. Therefore, we praise you.

Together let us say: **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came to be with us in human flesh, like us in all things except sin, that by his death and resurrection he might bring again life to the world.

Lord, we are not able to understand the breadth and length and height and depth of your love, but, true to his commandment, we come to this table, which he has left to us, to be used in remembrance of his death until he comes again.

Here we declare and witness before the world that by him alone we have received liberty and life, been claimed as your children and heirs, have access to your favor, freely granted, and are raised into your spiritual kingdom.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and these your gifts of bread and wine, that we may know Christ's presence, life, and salvation, and be his faithful followers, showing your love for the world.

God's Spirit is with us still: **Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

In one voice, let us offer the words of 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.

Words of Institution

"The bread of life." "The cup of salvation."

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Motet Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness Johann Crüger

*Deck yourself, my soul, with gladness, Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render Unto God,
whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous banquet founded; Come, for now
the Lord most holy Stoops to you in likeness lowly.*

Prayer following Communion

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn 420 God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

1. God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story,
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.
3. Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore, Serving Thee whom we adore.

*Charge and Benediction

Go in peace, practice forgiveness, live the gospel, in the name of Jesus, our Lord. May the blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore.

Voluntary

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

*Funding for trumpeter Ethan Symonds was provided
by the Enyart Trust-Music Enrichment Fund.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Mark and Helen Preebe in loving memory of the deceased members of the Preebe and Porchowsky families.

Rally Day Is Today Classes for children (Godly Play) and Tweens start today. Tween Sunday School is available via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Following Worship Today We encourage you to remain on Facebook Live for fifteen minutes following worship today as we observe a time of group fellowship by utilizing the comments section.

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.



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