

14th Sunday After Pentecost



**September 6, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

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.

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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Traditional

*Call to Worship

Barb Shriner

People of God, worship the living God today!

Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth.

Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of the right hand.

Nothing can stand against God's purposes.

Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

*Hymn 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

1. Glorious things of Thee are spoken,
 Zion, city of our God;
 God, whose word cannot be broken,
 Formed thee for a blest abode.
 On the rock of ages founded,
 What can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded,
 Thou may'st smile on all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters,
 Springing from eternal love,
 Well supply thy sons and daughters
 And all fear of want remove.
 Who can faint while such a river
 Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
 Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
 Never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hovering,
 See the cloud and fire appear
 For a glory and a covering,
 Showing that the Lord is near.
 Thus deriving from their banner
 Light by night and shade by day,
 Safe they feed upon the manna
 Which God gives them when they pray.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

When we gather to praise the Lord, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to God's. Accepting the power to become new people in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with mundane matters that we have missed the life you have set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes

and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.
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

The willingness to give is a sign of life. The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it. The heart that hoards the blessings of God is no longer alive with spiritual power. To give is to live.

Musical Reflection Offertory John Ness Beck
Paul Stewart, soloist

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, Shall I come before God with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give God my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? God has shown you, O people; God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and love kindness, and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

*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

Holy Spirit, pour out upon us wisdom and understanding, that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be open to receive all that leads to life and holiness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

New Testament

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Second Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15

Old Testament

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand

of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” 8 And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 12 “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” 13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

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

Sermon

Something out of Nothing

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness. Restored in Christ's presence, shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God's reconciling love, announces the new creation, and works for a world of justice and peace. When our pride or blindness hinders us, we seek forgiveness. We marvel that

the Lord gathers the broken pieces to do God's work and that God blesses us still with joy, new life, and surprising signs of unity.

Prayers of the People

When people ask for an explanation of the hope we have, give us words to answer thoughtfully and well. When people wonder out loud who Jesus is and why he matters, help us to reply in words that will echo the sweetness of your gospel. Help us to magnify your name, O Lord, so that you may be glorified in all the earth.

We need the glory of your grace in a world bent on revenge, the glory of your truth in a world in love with lies, the glory of your holiness in a world filled with tawdriness, the glory of your resurrection life in a world mired in death.

Be with those who wish they could find someone to talk to but cannot, those who wait for the phone to ring but it stays silent, those who work so hard on tasks that no one ever mentions or comments on. Be with those who are hungry for a word of gratitude that never comes.

Be with all the lonely people - be their friend when this world's friends fail, be their companion when they feel that they walk life's journey alone, be their word of kindness and hope when the world seems able only to be gruff and brusque as it brushes past the lives of others.

In our worship now, lift us higher, and help us to enter the rhythm of generosity and grace. We pray it ever and only in Jesus' precious name.

We pray silently...

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. Lord, I want to be a Christian In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, In-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian In-a my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving In-a my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy In-a my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus In-a my heart.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rest in the knowledge that God always provides. Therefore give and love with a generous heart, for this honors God who is most generous and loving.

Beloved, may God continue to bless and keep you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Voluntary

Allegro non Troppo (Op. 72, No. 1)

Felix Mendelssohn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given in loving memory of Bill Brideweser by Margie and family.

No Bible Study Monday, September 7, 2020
Offices Closed for Labor Day.

Adult Education Plan to join us as we study John's unique and often quoted Gospel beginning on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7-8 pm via Zoom. Contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316 so she can send you the link.

First Sunday Food Drive-In/Drop-Off Collection –Today from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Items Needed:

Boxed Macaroni & Cheese Mix	Rice or Pasta Side Dishes (Knorr, Near East, Zatarains)
Canned Chicken Breast	Canned Vegetables (Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, or Mixed)
Jell-O Gelatin	Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pears, or Fruit Cocktail)
Peanut Butter/Jelly	Canned Soup (Vegetable, Tomato or Chicken Noodle)
Packaged Muffin Mix	Packaged Cookie or Brownie Mix

Thank you for your generosity!

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.