

3rd Sunday after Pentecost



**June 13, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.**

Follow us also on



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

At the ringing of the carillon please silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God. We also ask that you power off your cell phones to prevent interference with our live-streaming and recording equipment. Bolded text is read or sung by all. *Please, rise in body or spirit.

Today, we are celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. During this time of pandemic, you are encouraged to take a pre-made Communion packet prior to the service, which will be distributed along with your bulletin.

COME

Voluntary

“Finlandia”

Jean Sibelius
arr. Albin C. Whitworth

*Call to Worship

Cindy Weiss

Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

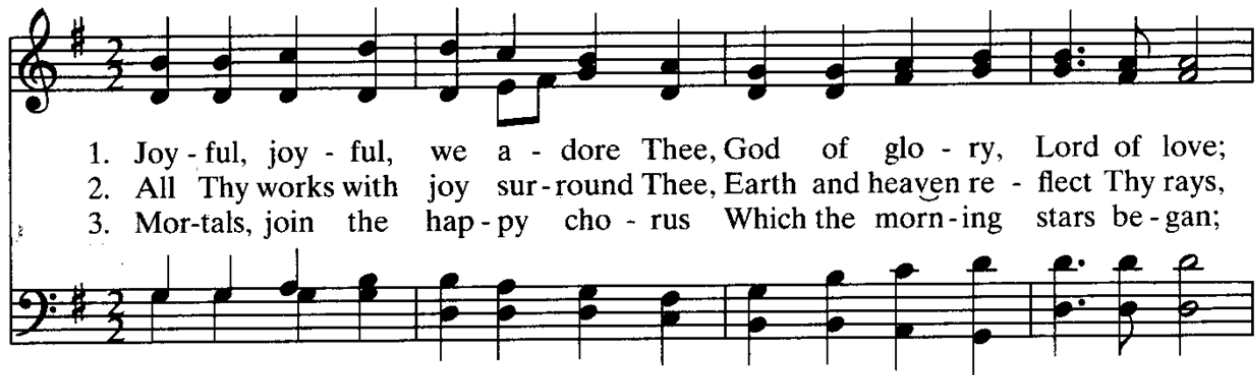
The kingdom of God is growing.

While we sleep and rise night and day:

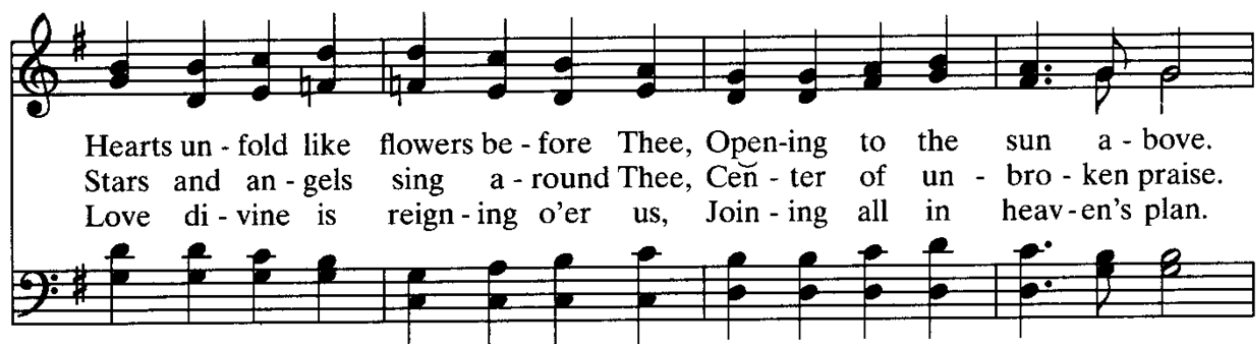
The kingdom of God is growing.

The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

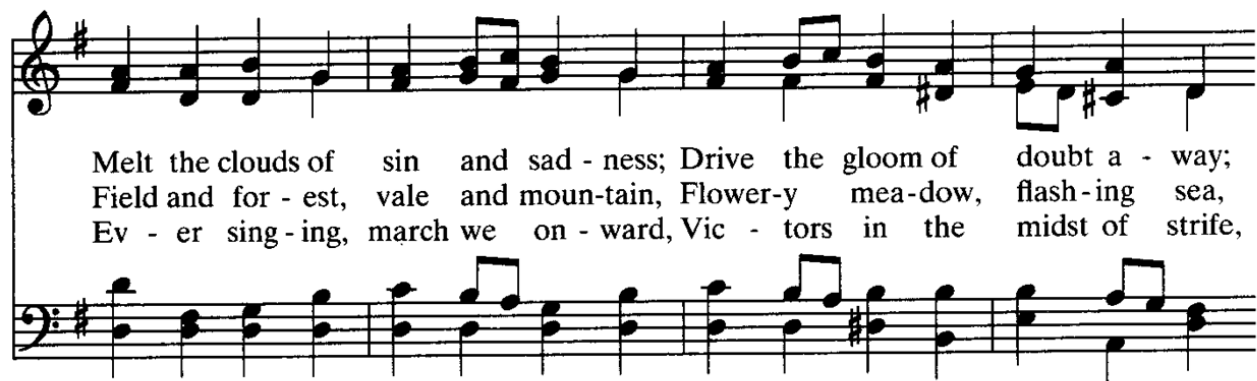
The kingdom of God is growing, its large branches are home to all kinds of people!



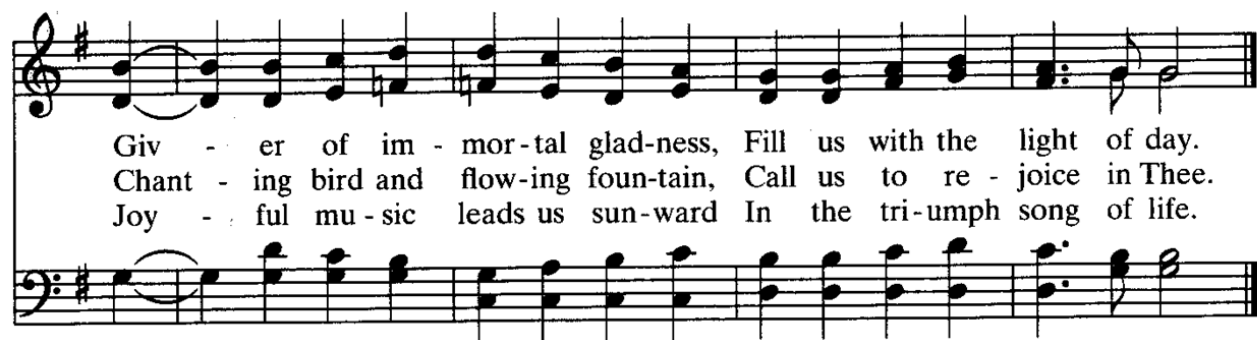
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

God will not count our trespasses against us, longing instead for us to be reconciled. We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we so often miss your kingdom at work among us. Captivated by power and prestige, we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around. Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work. Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes - fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation; beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs; building walls to keep people out when your branches offer generous nests. Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray, so that we might reach our fullest height of faith. In Christ's name we pray. 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

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We are ambassadors for Christ, for God has reconciled us through him!

*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

Greet both friends and strangers saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

During this time of pandemic, a nod of the head and wave of the hand will suffice.

Moment for Ministry

Susan Shellito/Vacation Bible School

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

We give thanks in word and song to God, who makes us glad and gives us joy because of all that God has done. We enact our thanksgiving through these tithes and offerings. May God put to good use what we give today.

Offertory Just A Closer Walk With Thee Zachary Troyer,
Soloist

*Just a closer walk with Thee; grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee; let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Now I am weak and Thou art strong, Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

*Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee*

*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

Following the Time with Young Disciples, young children and early tweens are invited to the church playground for age-appropriate activities (rain location: the nursery/pre-school rooms). As always, all children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary if they, or their parents, prefer.

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, we walk by faith and not by sight. So guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way in your way. Through Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Psalm 20:1-9 Old Testament

- 1 The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
- 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion.
- 3 May he remember all your offerings,
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

- 4 May he grant your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans.
- 5 May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.
- 6 Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.
- 7 Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.
- 8 They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.
- 9 Give victory to the king, O LORD; answer us when we call.

The Second Lesson

Mark 4:26-34

New Testament

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,
27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.
28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.
29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."
30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?
31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;
32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."
33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;
34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Sermon

Qualifying the Kingdom

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

Pre-made Communion packets are available for you. Please see the ushers for assistance. In keeping with social distancing protocols, the congregation will not be coming forward to receive the elements. Instead, you are encouraged to receive the elements in your pew at the appropriate time.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

John 6:35

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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.

We give thanks that in the creation of the world, you laid the earth's foundation and set its cornerstone in place. By the power of your Spirit you made the universe; by the might of your Word you gave us life. We give thanks that in the new creation, when you gave your Son to raise us up again, since we and all our human race had fallen, you claimed us for your own people, that we might proclaim the glorious deeds of him who has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. By the life of your Spirit you fill the hearts of the faithful, by the light of your Word you give us strength and love. Therefore, with your people of all places and times and with the whole company of heaven we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.

Together let us say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Alpha and Omega, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your whole church through this sacrament. Grant that all who share the bread of life and cup of salvation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, may be one in him and may remain faithful in love and hope. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your life, ministry, death, and resurrection, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

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 hymn #513

verses 1 and 2

1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)
2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

Prayer following Communion

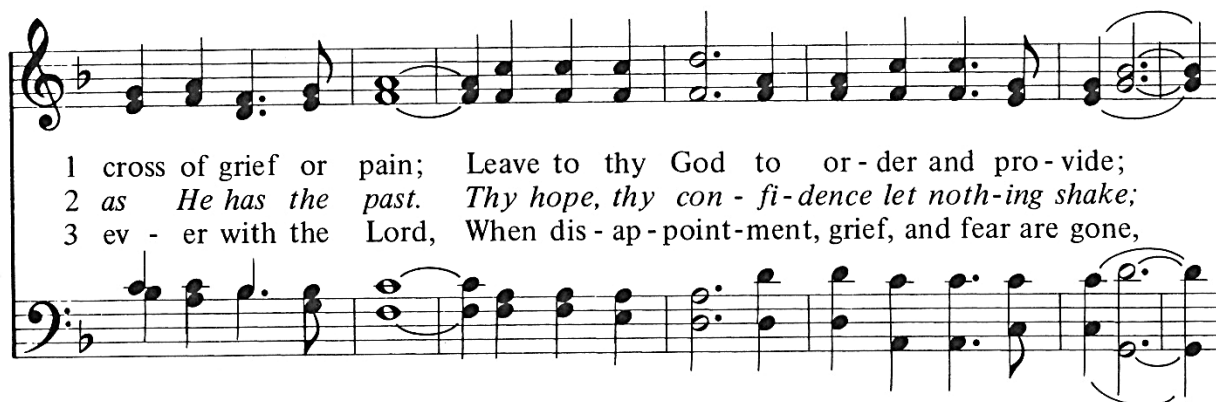
O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #77

Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA

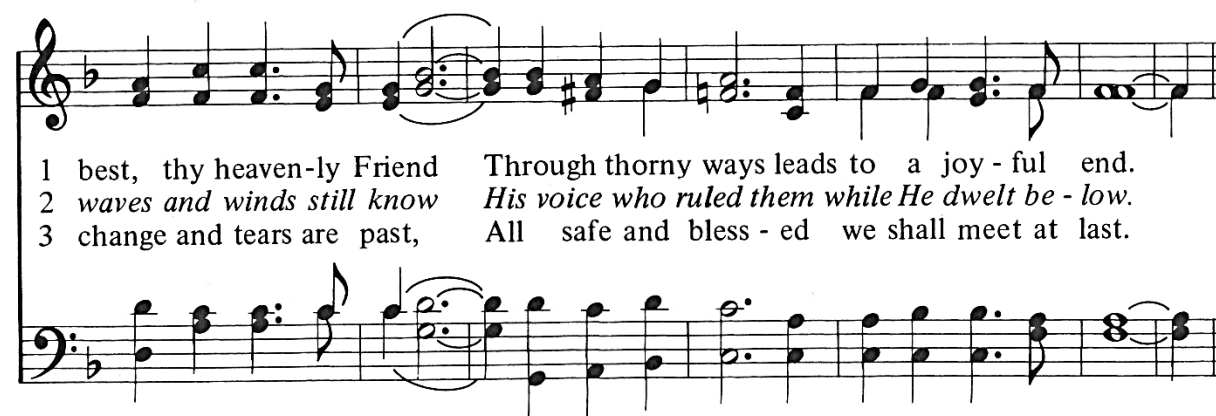
1 Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa - tient - ly the
2 Be still, my soul! thy God doth un - der - take To guide the fu - ture
3 Be still, my soul! the hour is has - tening on When we shall be for -



1 cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide;
 2 *as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;*
 3 ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



1 In ev - ery change He faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! thy
 2 *All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! the*
 3 Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! when



1 best, thy heaven - ly Friend Through thorny ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 2 *waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.*
 3 change and tears are past, All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

*Charge and Benediction

Sleep and rise night and day
 and keep alert to the kingdom of God all around.

May God bless you with new life, Christ tend you in grace, and the Holy Spirit
 guide your steps, as you walk by faith now and forever.

Voluntary

Variations on *Holy Manna*

Raymond H. Haan

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Claudine and Dave Schooley in honor of their daughter Jordane, who graduated in 2020 with honors from the University of San Diego and celebrated in-person on Sunday, May 16, 2021.

The Flowers on the Pedestal are given by Dan & Donna Gorrington in loving memory of Donna's parents, William & June Jacobs, brother Robert Jacobs, and Dan's mother Martha Gorrington.

Video System Upgrade Session recently approved a video system upgrade to provide high quality live-streaming of our worship services. We would like to extend our appreciation to the Sound Task Force, comprised of Shelley Koutnik, James Gray, Valerie Thorson, and Jon Hauerwas. We began live-streaming with the new system on May 22, and will be making minor adjustments to the system in the weeks to come. This project was made possible thanks to funding provided by the Bequest Fund and the generosity of the Roger H. Nelson family.

WPC Book Group will meet Monday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. Kacey Yates Gable will be hosting on her patio. The book this month is *Nine Perfect Strangers*, from Liane Moriarty. Kristy Yates will lead the discussion. Email Cathy Melder for details at chwdoc@gmail.com

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of June 13- 19, 2021	
<p>Sunday, 6/13 10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream 11:30 am Worship Committee Meeting in Room 106 11:35 am VBS Volunteer Meeting in the Tween Room</p> <p>Monday, 6/14 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 7:00 pm Book Discussion Off Site</p>	<p>Tuesday, 6/15 9:30 am Quilt Ministry Meeting in WHH 7:00 pm Discipleship Committee Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Properties meeting in WHH</p> <p>Wednesday, 6 /16 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting in Room 106 7:00 pm Memorial Garden Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, 6/17 Youth Fellowship Trip to Cedar Point, Off site</p> <p>Saturday, 6/19 8:00 am Food For Life in the Kitchen</p>

Giving Online During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on the WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



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



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