WELCOME

Fifth Sunday of Easter





April 28, 2024

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit." — 1 John 4:12-13

* Denotes please stand

CHIMES

WELCOME

*PREPARING FOR WORSHIP HYMN 399 God Welcomes All appears at the end of bulletin Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex from a Greeter upon request.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God's love never runs out; His kindness never stops. Every morning, we see new proof of His faithfulness.

In our toughest times, God's tender care shines through. He does not abandon us in our struggles.

Let's hold on patiently for God's promises, knowing He's always at work, even when we can't see it.

We make it our mission to love each other because love comes from God. If we aren't loving, we're missing out on truly knowing God, because God is love.

Our call to love is not solely from us to Him; it's that and so much more. It's also about how He loved us first. He sent His Son for us,

and since God gave so much for us, let's extend that same love to others.

No one has ever fully seen God, but if we love each other, God lives in us—His love is complete in us.

We love because God loved us first. Loving God but not our neighbor, is only half of the assignment.

We come together to worship God, who unites us in love, revives us with compassion, and invites us to live in honesty and grace.

We are here, drawn together by Christ's love, ready to love, serve, and make a difference in each other's lives. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we gather in God's presence, let us open our hearts in confession.

We confess that we have not always extended the love and kindness God shows to us. We have closed our hearts instead of opening them, focused on our comfort while ignoring others in need. Forgive us, God, and teach us to reflect Your love in all we do.

Let us reflect on how we can live more faithfully in God's love.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

We sometimes completely miss Your presence in our lives and act from fear rather than faith. Teach us to trust in Your faithfulness and to see Your hand at work, even in our trials. Inspire us to love as You have loved us, reaching out to others with the hope and compassion You provide. May our lives bear witness to the love God has poured into us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, Amen!

*DOXOLOGY HYMN 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow appears at the end of bulletin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Following the Children's Message, children Pre-K through 5th grade, will have Children's Church in the classroom across from the Nursery (Main Level), leaving the Sanctuary with a Children's Ministry leader.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

The Love of God

Arr. by Larry Shackley

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell. The wand'ring child is reconciled by God's beloved Son. The aching soul again made whole, and priceless pardon won.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure the saints' and angels' song. Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ryone a scribe by trade; to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 3:19-33

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



CHORAL ANTHEM

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

Keelynn Lawson, soloist Oh, how He loves you and me. He gave His life, what more could He give? Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me. Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for mankind to show; What He did there brought hope from despair. Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me. Oh, how He loves you and me.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-21

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

PRAYER

MESSAGE

MUSICAL REFLECTION ON THE MESSAGE

The Wonder of It All with I Stand Amazed

George Beverly Shea Charles H. Gabriel Arr. by David Shipps

The wonder of it all– Just to think that God loves me!

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned unclean.

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be; How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me! When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see, 'Twill be my joy through the ages to sing of His love for me.

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be; How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me!

*CLOSING HYMN 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

appears at the end of bulletin

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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FOLLOWING WORSHIP, PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HERITAGE ROOM FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS



Kurt Kaiser Arr. by David Shipps The flower arrangement is given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones, given by Joanne Sater.



Director of Family & Children's Ministry: Stephanie Loudon Youth Group Leader: Leyton Mathias *Nursery Caregivers:* Courtney Boyer

Pastor: Rev. Nathan Loudon Liturgist: Cheri Johnson Claire Loudon

April 21, 2024 Worship Attendance – 170

OFFERING

Your offering, and any other type of donation to the church, can be placed in the plate located in the Narthex or scan this QR code to place it online.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Communion Sunday (usually the 1st Sunday of the month) -Following the Children's Message, the older children will remain with their parents. There are special Worship Bags for them in the Narthex to pick up before Worship.

2nd 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month –

Following the Children's Message, kids Pre-K thru 5th grade, have Children's Church in the classroom across from the Nursery (Main Level), leaving the Sanctuary with a Children's Ministry leader.

WORSHIP BAGS

There are special Worship Bags in the Narthex for the children to pick up before Worship.

NURSERY

The Nursery (Main Level) is open for infants through 5 years old.

IN OUR PRAYERS

(Homebound in *italics*) Molly Bates Penny Gallup Paul Jablonka Larry & Janet Neeley Sally Phillips Ed Pool Andrew Smith Tina & Pete Wittich

We are a praying church at First Presbyterian Church, believing in the power of prayer and collective prayer. First Pres Prayer Chain sends email prayer requests to 80+ prayer warriors. If you have prayer needs, submit them and/ or requests to be included as a prayer warrior to: fir.pres.prayer.request@qmail.com.

> **First Presbyterian Church** 222 N. Broad St. ~ Lancaster, OH 43130 740 / 653 - 1594 church@firstpbc.org www.firstpbc.org



Pianist: Caryn Ginter Head Usher: Ryan Johnson

Lead Production: Joe Brymer-Bashore

Video Production: Maggie Havlicek

Audio Production: Bobby Havlicek

Director of Worship & Music: John McClain

Offering Link

Marie Murray Jim Russell



This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

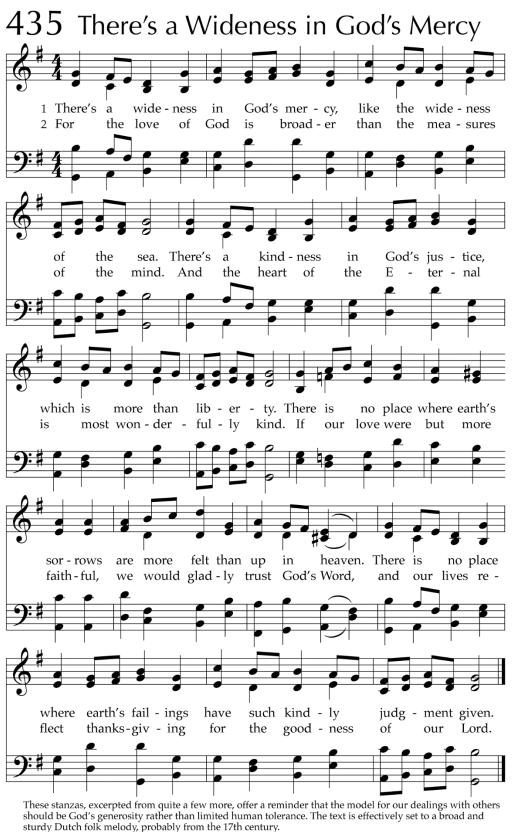
TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008 MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

THEMBA AMEN 4.4.9

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

OPENING HYMN 435

FORGIVENESS

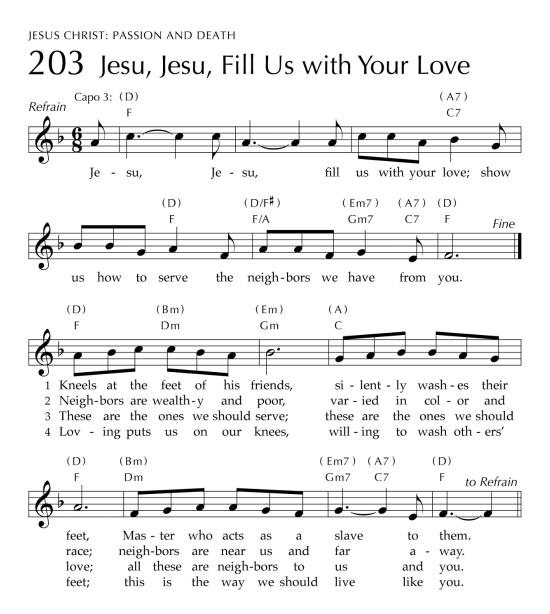


TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt. MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D



TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551 OLD HUNDREDTH LM



Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

CHEREPONI 7.7.9 with refrain