

WELCOME

Fifth Sunday of Easter



First Presbyterian Church
Lancaster, OH
www.firstpbc.org



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!

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.*

*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.*

Refrain:

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.*

SCRIPTURE READING Lamentations 3:19-33

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



[Scripture Link](#)

CHORAL ANTHEM

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

Keelynn Lawson, soloist

Kurt Kaiser
Arr. by David Shipps

*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**



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





The flower arrangement is given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones,
given by Joanne Sater.

Pastor:	Rev. Nathan Loudon	Director of Worship & Music:	John McClain
Liturgist:	Cheri Johnson	Pianist:	Caryn Ginter
Director of Family & Children's Ministry:	Stephanie Loudon	Head Usher:	Ryan Johnson
Youth Group Leader:	Leyton Mathias	Video Production:	Maggie Havlicek
Nursery Caregivers:	Courtney Boyer Claire Loudon	Audio Production:	Bobby Havlicek
		Lead Production:	Joe Brymer-Bashore

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.



[Offering Link](#)

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	<i>Paul Jablonka</i>	Marie Murray
Larry & Janet Neeley	Sally Phillips	Ed Pool	Jim Russell
Andrew Smith	<i>Tina & Pete Wittich</i>		

*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@gmail.com.

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God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

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

THEMBA AMEN
 4.4.9

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures

here below; praise *him above, ye heavenly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Capo 3: (D) (A7)
 Refrain F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

(D) (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F F/A Gm7 C7 F Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

(D) (Bm) (Em) (A)
 F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their

2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and

3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should

4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

(D) (Bm) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F Dm Gm7 C7 F to Refrain

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.

race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.

love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

feet; this is the way we should live like you.

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.