

Our Service of Worship, October 9, 2022



Westwood First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH

Gathering Around God's Word

YHWH/Yahweh

English (with vowels)

יהוה

Modern Hebrew (read right to left)

יהוה / יהוה

Ancient Hebrew (read right to left)

Welcome and Announcements

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Prelude: “*Rejoice Greatly O My Soul*”—Karg-Elert

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

Ringling of the Tower Bell

Choral Introit: “*O Be Joyful*”—Yarrington

* **Call to Worship** (*Psalm 96:1-9—Responsive*)

The Lord be with you all!

And also with you!

O sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord; bless his name;

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

His marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

He is to be revered above all gods.

Honor and majesty are before him;

Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

Bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

Let us worship the Lord as one—in spirit and truth.



Opening Prayer

* **Hymn No. 483 (vv. 1, 2, 4):** “*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*”

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty power hath made, God’s gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God’s might, Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Invitation to Confession/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. (Romans 8:34)
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!



Announcements and Prayer Requests



October WestFed Food Pantry needs: Peanut Butter, jelly, bars of soap



Flowers are given in memory of:

- ♥ Virginia D. and Robert H. Neal by the Robert Neal Family.
- ♥ Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bierhorst, by Mrs. Raymond Heylmun.



Prayers are requested for:

- ♥ Bridgette Rothhaas, at Mercy West Hospital.
- ♥ Katie Bannigan, a friend of Sandy Morris, having shoulder surgery.
- ♥ Elizabeth Durrell recovering from a broken hip.
- ♥ Diane Ringshauser, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- ♥ Janet Zeigler as she continues to battle cancer.
- ♥ Kyle Kimball, Bob and Donna’s son, undergoing tests.
- ♥ Anna Rechel, recovering from hip replacement surgery last week.
- ♥ DJ Hines, Sandy Morris’ brother-in-law.
- ♥ Bonnie Shuman, Heather’s sister, recovering from recent health issues.
- ♥ Ruth Peck, a friend of Barb Nieman, as well as Barb’s cousin Claudia.
- ♥ Vicki Schickner and her family, in the wake of John’s passing.
- ♥ Bob Peters, a friend of Denny and Beth Richmond.
- ♥ Walt Albers, Linda Gardner’s brother, facing cancer surgery.
- ♥ Bob and Cindy Robertson, friends of Pastor Jeff and Jane.
- ♥ Lore McBain and her family, cousin of Pastor Jeff.
- ♥ Cathie and Larry DeFazio, dealing with on-going health issues.
- ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
- ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
- ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
- ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission’s Princesses Ballet.



A second big THANK YOU to Cathie DeFazio for all her hard work over the last several years in arranging for lay worship leaders each week. She is stepping down from that role for health reasons, and so we want to let her know how much she is appreciated for all that she’s done! Wendy Beckman will take on that role. If you’re interested in being a lay leader, please let Wendy know!

Moment for Meditation: The Name of God

The Tetragrammaton, referred to in rabbinic literature as HaShem (The Name) or Shem Hameforash (The Special Name), is the word used to refer to the four-letter word, yud-heh-vav-heh (יהוה), that is the name for God used in the Hebrew Bible. The name, which some people pronounce as Yahweh and others (mostly Christians) as Jehovah, appears 5,410 times in the Bible (1,419 of those in the Torah).

It is unclear what the original pronunciation of the word was, due to the longstanding Jewish prohibition on speaking God's name aloud. Instead, a variety of pseudonyms are used, such as Adonai (Lord), Elohim (God) and HaShem (The Name). The four letters of the Tetragrammaton form the root meaning "to be," and some have understood the original meaning to be "He-Who-Is," or "He who brings being into being."

The origin of the taboo on pronouncing God's name aloud—viewing this as irreverent or possibly even a violation of the commandment not to take God's name in vain—is not entirely clear. However, some attribute it to a Temple practice in which only the High Priest was allowed to utter the name, and only when in the Temple and reciting the priestly blessing. In the Mishnah (in Sanhedrin 10:1), as Rabbi Louis Jacobs notes in *The Jewish Religion*, the sage Abba Saul declares that one who pronounces the divine name with its letters (i.e. as it is spelled) has no share in the World to Come.

~ myjewishlearning.com

When God promised to be with Moses in his mission to free the Israelites from Egypt, Moses anticipated his reception among his people, and he was concerned. The question, "What is his name?" would not be asking merely for some label for God. Rather, in the ancient world, the name of someone, including a god, signified that person's character, personality, and identity. To ask, "What is his name?" would be tantamount to saying, "Who is this God that we should trust him? What sort of being is he?" God answers Moses' concern with what is one of the most curious verses in all of Scripture. It has engendered thousands upon thousands of pages of scholarly debate.

So what is God's name? Though there is variation in the precise form of God's name, all options in this passage are related to the Hebrew verb meaning "to be." This is true not only of the "I AM" names, but also of "Yahweh." So the name of God affirms, most simply, God's reality. God is. God exists. But, on this foundation, I AM WHO I AM, implies God's self-determination. God does not exist in the same way that you and I exist, as creatures dependent on a creator. Rather, God is unique in being independent of any source other than God himself.

~ Mark D. Roberts, theologyofwork.com

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end, amen, amen.**

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 42:5-10—The Servant, a Light to the Nations*

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

Second Scripture Reading: *Exodus 3:1-15—Moses at the Burning Bush*

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.



⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you;’ This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Sermon: “YHWH”

Responding to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith: *The Apostles Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to Stewardship

[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]

Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Gracious and Generous God, Creator and Giver of all that is good, we thank you for our many blessings. We acknowledge that all that we have is from you. We offer you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth—and all the gifts we have been given. We seek to be your faithful stewards. Blessed by your grace, may we show gratitude by sharing what we have been given, knowing that in serving our brothers and sisters, we serve you. We remain ever grateful for your constant love, the gift of your Son Jesus, and the presence of your Holy Spirit with us. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Offertory Solo: “*Guide My Feet*”—arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston
Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with 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.

Bearing God’s Word Into the World

* **Hymn No. 432:** “*Song of Hope*”

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

[Repeat]

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response: “*Sevenfold Amen*”—John Stainer

Postlude: “*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*”—J. S. Bach

Leading Worship This Morning

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Mary Bramlage, *Guest Organist*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Dale Nieman, *Lay Worship Leader*

A stylized, cursive signature of the word "Yahweh" in black ink, positioned at the bottom right of the page.

