

Announcements and Prayer Requests

✦ **January WestFed Food Pantry needs:** Cereal, Canned green beans, canned peas.

✦ **Flowers are given this week:**

- ♥ In honor of Heather MacPhail's 30 years of glorious musical service to WFPC!
- ♥ Given by Mace Justice in memory of Harold and Betty Justice.
- ♥ Open Flower Dates: January 29; February 12; April 16; July 10 and 31.

✦ **Prayers are requested for:**

- ♥ Linda Sellins, Thelma Imhoff's daughter, undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ♥ Michael Cranley, a friend of Staci Dennison
- ♥ Steve Beckman, who suffered a broken wrist last week
- ♥ Mary Baverman (Marc's mom) who recently suffered a stroke.
- ♥ Craig Kallendorf, Camille Rechel's brother, who is in hospice.
- ♥ Pierce Teepen, son of Alyssa and Tyler, friends of Rhonda Boddy.
- ♥ Diane Ringshauser, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- ♥ Rev. Larry Lalama, Jeff's cousin
- ♥ Diana Jackson, Rhonda's sister-in-law, undergoing chemotherapy.
- ♥ Jan Rice and Kristine Von Holle, Sandy Morris' friends with serious health issues
- ♥ DJ Hines, Sandy Morris' brother-in-law.
- ♥ 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 Go sel Mission's Princesses Ballet.



Our Service of Worship, January 22, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Westwood First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati OH
Gathering Around God's Word

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"—arr. Dale Wood

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

Ringing of the Tower Bell

Choral Introit: "Seek Ye First"

* **Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 27:1, 4-9—Responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

We come in hope of seeing God's goodness in the land of the living. We will wait for the Lord.

One thing we ask of the Lord, that we will seek after:

To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Let us join hearts and voices in gratitude and praise.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn No. 442 (verses 1, 4-5): “The Church’s One Foundation”

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation By water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.



Invitation/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Almighty and Merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess—restore those who are repentant, according to your promises declared to the world in Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we humbly pray. Amen.

Moment of Silent, Personal Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon (*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24—Responsive*)

May the God of peace sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful. It is the Lord who will do this. Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

May Christ’s peace—that which the world cannot give—be with you always!

And also with you.

* **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.**

Moment for Meditation: God Calls Us All

[God] is leading into something new. He doesn’t reserve *the new* for the young. God is paving new paths and journeys for his people in every stage of life.

[He] doesn’t leave the risk of dreaming and forging new life for the young. He doesn’t look at our lives and say, “Okay, you’re now at an age where I no longer need to call you into the hard, the risky, and the fearful. I will keep that for the young.”

No. In fact, the Bible shows us a far different picture. Whether you’re young or old, God isn’t done calling you to lay down your life for him. Here are three reasons why we can expect God to call us into something new regardless of our age.

1. Radical Faithfulness Isn’t Just A Young Person’s Game.

[W]e never become so mature in life that we can decidedly say we’ve arrived. We should never sit back in our rocking chairs drinking sweet tea and thinking that our work here is done. We must press forward. Keep moving in the direction God has called you toward. No matter how hard, tiring, or risky it might be.

2. God Can Use You In A Way Now That He Couldn’t Use You Before.

As we get older, God uses us in ways he could have never used us before. Your age should never be used as a pass to belittle and condemn another generation, but it should be used to build up and encourage. Your age should be a reason God can use you in a new way.

3. God Is Not Done Calling You.

God is never done calling us into something new. He’s never done using us for his kingdom. We should never become so complacent and comfortable in life that we assume God has fulfilled his mission in us. Our mission isn’t done until the day we look upon the face of our Savior. The words of my childhood pastor still ring true in my mind today. “Christians don’t retire from the work of God.”

If God can use you in spite of the stain filled past you lived, what makes you think he can’t use you in spite of your age—young or old. That’s the promise. If we continue to live our lives surrendered to his will, then he’ll never be done with you. He’ll never be done using you for his glory. That’s the life we should want to live from beginning to end. A life lived for his glory.

~ Tamara Chamberlain, *kainosproject.com*

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4—*The Righteous Reign of the Coming King*

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23—*Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

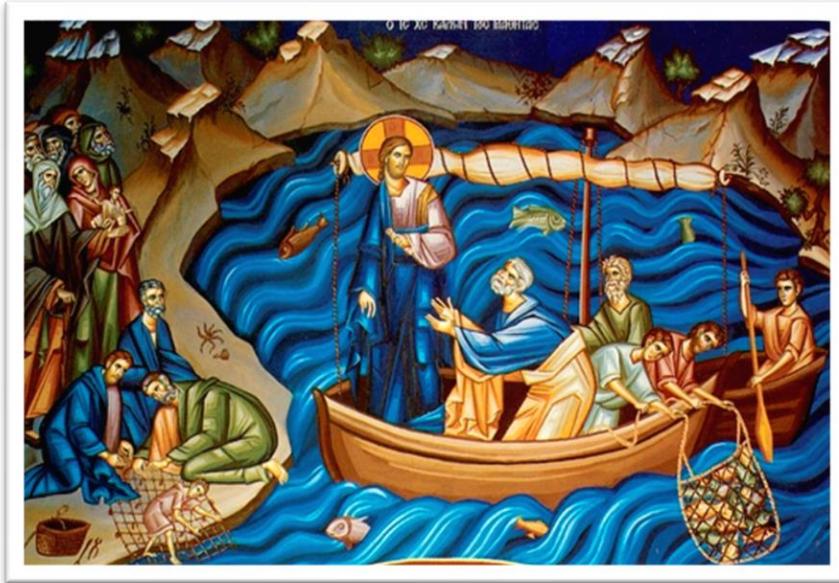
¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon: “*Risky Business*”



Jesus Calling the Disciples Orthodox Icon, artist unknown



Jesus Calls the First Disciples, by Jorge Cocco Santángelo

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed (**catholic*, meaning universal)

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; on 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 Spirit; 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/Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Gracious Giver of all gifts, in this holy moment make us aware, not so much of what we have given as of all we have received and so have yet to share. Let your generosity flow through us, that our lives will be gifts given freely and abundantly in joy and thanksgiving. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Offertory Solo: “*The Lord Is My Light*”—Frances Allitson
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

* **Closing Hymn No. 276:** “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response: “*Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace*”—Whitworth

Postlude: “*Prelude and Fugue in C Major*”—J. S. Bach

Leading Worship This Morning

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*
Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*
Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*
Bruce Smith, *Lay Leader*

