

SUCH AS I HAVE,
I give.
ACTS 3:6

April 14, 2024

The Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church

72 West Franklin Street

Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

937-848-2378

www.bellbrookpc.com

Our mission: Embracing the Community with God's Love, Providing a Home for Spiritual Nurture & Worship, Reaching Out to Those in Need, Growing through Service to Others

O Christ, who lived to show what life is like, who died to show that sin is death, who rose to raise us up in life, help us to follow you and love you forever. Amen.

The *Prelude* offers time for us to focus on preparing our hearts and minds for worship – God is here; we need to bring ourselves to worship as God already has.

The *light of the candles* symbolizes the presence of God and Jesus as light of the world.

We Gather

The Life of the Church

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

All: We welcome the light of Christ into our worship.

Sung Prayer of Preparation

“Christ is Alive!”

Purple #246 v. 1

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

The *Call to Worship* invites us to begin worshipping God.

* Indicates please rise in body or spirit

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

One: Jesus Christ has come into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

All: Since we have a great high priest who has gone into heaven – Jesus, the Son of God – let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Let us praise his holy name!

One: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

All: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power and strength be to our God forevermore!

One: Alleluia! Amen!

All: Alleluia!

***Hymn of Praise**

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”

Purple # 839

***Call to Confession**

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

No one is perfect. God knows that. God asks us to admit our faults. We do this using the *Prayer of Confession*. *Silent Confession* is a time to tell God anything else you are sorry for.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In Christ, we are forgiven!

After confessing our sin, we hear the good news that God forgives us in the *Assurance of Pardon*. We then stand and sing the *Gloria Patri* in praise of God's forgiveness.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Sung Response**

"Gloria Patri"

Red # 622

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.

***Declaration of Trust and the Peace**

One: Congregation of Jesus Christ, in whom are you trusting?

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

One: Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: And also with you.

(As we have received peace from Christ, let us also pass that peace to each other.)

We Hear the Word

Choral Anthem

Pew Conversation

Have you ever waited for one thing, only to receive something else? Was what you received a good surprise or not so good?

Sung Response

“Jesus Sends Us”

Pew Insert

Jesus sends us to all people, And like Peter, spread the news.

Let us be like Paul and tell them all Of God’s love for all of us.

We are all to be examples Of how God wants us to be.

Let us use the gifts we’ve all received So we serve God’s people’s needs.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of all creation: you have taught us by your Word. Open our hearts to your Spirit and lead us on the paths of Christ, your Son. All praise and glory be yours forever. Amen.

In the *Prayer for Illumination*, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand God’s Word. “Illumination” means “turning the lights on”.

Scripture is God’s Word to us. We listen carefully and study God’s word.

Scripture Reading

Mark 6:53-56

Scripture Reading

Acts 3:1-10

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Rev. Diane Ziegler

We Respond

Hymn of Affirmation

“Spirit of the Living God”

Purple # 288

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

From Our World Belongs to God

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humanity can do, for we believe that one day every challenge to God’s rule will be crushed. His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule. We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Prayers of the People and 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.

*The Lord's
Prayer is the
prayer Jesus
taught us.*

Sung Response to Prayer

"Be Not Afraid"

Purple # 243

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

There is hardly a more beautiful way to speak about the hidden promise of even the smallest gift than the image of the mustard seed, so tiny yet holding so much possibility. We are gifts of God: perhaps we feel small, but we hold the promise of God's awesome power at work within us. The future may surprise us as much as it will surprise those who are watching us. We share our gifts, now, so we can build a home for those who come here seeking refuge, acceptance, and love. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory

*Doxology means "to give
God glory."*

We pray God will use our
gifts for God's work
through us and others in
the *Prayer of Dedication*.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication/Offering (unison)

**God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs
of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our**

**gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the
Word-made-flesh. Amen.**

We Are Sent

*Parting Hymn

"We Will Go Out With Joy"

Purple #539

***Charge**

Almighty God has given each of us everything we need to see our lives as a sheer gift from his hand: The Father has created us and sustains our lives daily; the Son has paid for our sins and brought us new life; the Spirit keeps us in our Savior's love and empowers us to live for him.

***Carrying the Light**

One: As we go forth to serve,

All: We carry the light of Christ into the world.

***Benediction**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts, transform our lives, and brighten the world. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you always. Amen.

*** Sung Benediction**

"Christ is Alive!"

Purple # 246 v. 5

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Postlude

(Sanctuary worshippers, please be seated for the postlude.)

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Welcome to those Visiting Today!

We invite you to join us for a brief time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall following worship! If you have children, we offer a preschool classroom for children up to the age of 7. Enter through the door at the front of the sanctuary and follow the signs.

Prayer Concerns Kevin, Family of Orris Smallwood, Kelsey Stewart, Family of Harry Crowe, Family of Claudia Anderson, Owen (Robin's grandson), Norma Smith, Nola (Kelly's step-mother), Jonathan Berryhill, Sandy (Shay's friend), Family of Diane Green, Phil Rogers, Leslie Clements, Bently, Dean and Maureen Smallwood, Loy and Ed Boncek, Toby Boedecker, those who are sick and their caregivers, those who hunger, those recovering from storms, those grieving, those dealing with addiction, PEACE.

Announcements

Have a Heart! Lovingly prepared heart ornaments have been crafted out of the curtains that adorned the sanctuary walls for over 60 years. These heart ornaments are available for a suggested donation of \$ 10.00 or more, with all proceeds going to the refurbishment of the bell. Hearts are available in Fellowship Hall this morning.

Office Hours – Monday- 10-5, Wednesday- 10-5, Thursday 10-5

Suggestion for at home this week

- Make concrete plans to begin giving alms (sharing what God has given you) as a spiritual practice.
- Consider how to make your community (church or otherwise) more radically inclusive.
- Read Acts 3:1-10 with your family or with a prayer partner, and think about how your family and your church can be more like the church of Acts.

Bible Studies

- Monday at 10:00 a.m. at Winans Coffee and Chocolates on Feedwire Rd The Grumbler's Guide to Giving Thanks by will begin on April 29th. See Robin for more information.
- Monday at 6:30 p.m. Board Room. Sunday Scriptures.
- Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Board Room. Lenten study – Proverbs

Opportunities to Serve

- Help with Wednesday evening food pick-up for the food ministry from 4:45 p.m.- 6:45 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. See Susan Seiler for more information.
- Online/Credit card Giving: Access by using the QR code to the right or make a credit card donation using the Clover machine located in the sanctuary.
- Vacation Bible School volunteers are needed to help with decorations, crafts, teaching, games and snacks. See Bethany if you would like to help or fill out a volunteer form (located outside the office and in the weekly e-news).
- The Sugar Maple Festival is April 19-21. We are planning on having a float in the parade and also a booth to help raise money for the bell. Parade riders and walkers will be needed and folks to sit in the park at our table also needed. If you can help with the parade, please see Dana or Bethany.





A house united

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples:

Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.

