

# 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-3

“WE REMEMBER BEFORE OUR  
GOD AND FATHER  
YOUR WORK PRODUCED BY FAITH,  
YOUR LABOR PROMPTED BY LOVE, AND  
YOUR ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE  
IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

MESSAGINGMINISTRIES.ORG

**April 21, 2024**

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 a.m.**

**The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**

**72 West Franklin Street**

**Bellbrook, Ohio 45305**

**937-848-2378**

**[www.bellbrookpc.com](http://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***

*Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. Therefore we offer ourselves to you, in service, love and praise. Use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **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.**

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.

#### **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)

Ps. 96:2, 9

**One:** Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

**All:** **Tell of God's saving power from day to day!**

#### **\*Hymn of Praise**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

Purple # 804

#### **\*Call to Confession**

Matthew 22:16

God does not regard us with partiality, but with the grace of Christ Jesus and deals with each of us according to our need. With gratitude for this amazing grace, let us confess our sin.

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.

#### **\*Prayer of Confession** (unison) Matthew 22:15-22

**What a debt we owe to you, O God. You have given us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap the innocent, mock your truth with empty praise, and put your patience to the test. Forgive us, O God, and by**

**your grace restore in us the image of your face; through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**

**\*Silent Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon** (responsive) Psalm 96:11-12  
One: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!  
Let the sea roar with laughter, the fields shout in  
celebration, and the forests sing with joy: in Jesus  
Christ we are forgiven!

**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.***

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.

**\*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**

“This Little Light”

**Pew Conversation**

Have you ever gone on a journey? Where did you go? Have you gone on a mission  
trip? Try to figure out who has traveled the furthest on a mission.

**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)**

**Holy One, true and living God, through the message of the gospel and the power of your Spirit make us imitators of the Lord: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 17:1-9

**Scripture Reading**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

Rev. Diane Ziegler

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.

***We Respond***

**Hymn of Affirmation**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Purple # 451

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**The Apostle’s 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 Ghost, 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 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (responsive)**

1 Thess. 1:1-10

One: Lord God, with gratitude for all your goodness, we come to you in prayer – for our family and friends, for our sisters and brothers in faith, and for the world of nations you have made. Remember those who are dear to us.

**All: Wrap your steadfast love around them, sustain them in times of trouble, and keep them always in your care.**

One: Remember the church of Jesus Christ.

**All: Empower us to proclaim the gospel, strengthen us in our conviction, and make us imitators of the Lord.**

One: Remember the family of nations.

**All: Send out your Spirit to renew the earth, welcome all people into your house, and let your love be known in all the world.**

**One:** To you, O God, Maker of heaven and earth, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the grace and peace of Christ we pray, and we pray now together the prayer that he taught us saying,

**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**

**Ps. 96:5, 9; Matt. 22:21**

The Lord made the heavens, and all the earth belongs to God. As Jesus taught us, let us give to God the things that are God's own.

**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)**

**All honor and majesty, strength and beauty are yours,  
Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth. Let these  
simple offerings we bring be a sign of the great glory  
that is due to your holy name; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

## **We Are Sent**

### **\*Parting Hymn**

“Standing on the Promises”

Purple #838

### **\*Charge**

Ps. 96:3; 1 Thess. 1:8

Go forth to declare God’s glory among all the nations so that God’s wonderful work may be known to all.

### **\*Carrying the Light**

One: As we go forth to serve,

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

### **\*Benediction**

1 Thess. 1:1, 5

Grace to you and peace from God the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.

### **\* 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 ages up to the age of 7. Enter through the door at the front of the sanctuary and follow the classroom signs.

**Prayer Concerns** Sheila Henry and family, Sue Pledger, Luceia, 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, Maureen Smallwood, Bill Wiseman, Loy and Ed Boncek, Toby Boedecker, those who are sick and their caregivers, those who hunger, those recovering from storms, those grieving, 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.

**Thank you to everyone** who helped with the parade float, bell publicity, church booth and water station yesterday. It was a great day!

**Toddler Time has moved** to once a month for the months of May, June and July. It will be held the first Thursday morning of each month at 10:30 a.m. This is a free craft time for children ages 3-5 with their parents. Registration is suggested. See Kimmie for more information.

**Mark your calendar for the next Service of Hope** on April 30th at 5:30pm. The theme of this service is "Creation Care." There will be a short liturgical service (outside in the courtyard, weather permitting), followed by refreshments and conversation. There are invitations outside the office that you can give to your friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

**Office Hours** – Monday- 10-5, Wednesday- 10-5, Friday 10-3

### **Suggestion for at home this week**

- Practice gratitude for your church and your family, and be on the lookout for ways to be grateful every day.
- Collect coins to add to the offering as a reminder that you worship God and not possessions.
- Read Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 with your family or with a prayer partner, and think about how you can be a witness to the resurrection.

## Bible Studies

- Monday at 10:00 a.m. at Winans Coffee and Chocolates on Feedwire Rd. *The Grumbler's Guide to Giving Thanks will begin April 29<sup>th</sup>*. You are invited. See Robin for more information.
- Monday at 6:30 p.m. Board Room. Sunday Scriptures.
- Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Board Room.

## 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).



## Living discipleship



Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

-Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Who among Christians today, is a disciple of Jesus, in any substantive sense of the word disciple”? A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice—a practitioner, even if only a beginner. The New Testament literature, which must be allowed to define our terms if we are ever to get our bearings in the Way with Christ, makes this clear. In that context, disciples of Jesus are people who do not just profess certain views as their own but apply their growing understanding of life in the Kingdom of the Heavens to every aspect of their life on earth.”

-The Great Omission by Dallas Willard