

“UNLESS A  
*kernel of wheat*  
FALLS TO THE  
GROUND AND DIES,  
IT REMAINS ONLY A  
SINGLE SEED.

BUT IF IT DIES,  
IT PRODUCES  
*many seeds.”*

JOHN 12:24, NIV

## Firelands Presbyterian Church

[www.firelandschurch.org](http://www.firelandschurch.org)

March 17, 2024

2626 East Harbor Road

Port Clinton, OH 43452

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<https://www.facebook.com/firelandschurch>

Pastor Roberta Bella

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Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and committed to serving God and growing together in Jesus Christ.

We invite all of our worshippers to stay for fellowship following the service so that we might become better acquainted.

### **THE ORDER OF THE LITURGY**

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

### **GATHERING**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**                      *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*                      **arr. Berry**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

At every bend in the river, at every fork in the road,

**Christ waits.**

At every surprising turn, in every wrinkle of time,

**Christ tarries.**

Each path we wander, each road we travel,

**we journey not alone.**

Here and now, Christ walks again with us.

**Here and now, we raise our songs of praise.**

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for all your mercies: for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, your love that has redeemed us. We are surrounded by your presence always, yet you have called us to this place. Here fill us with your Spirit, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Here help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts. Here equip us to serve you, in strength and wisdom, with grace and passion, delighting to do your will, following in the footsteps of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                      **"O Lord My God"**                      **Hymnal #625**

#### **Call to Confession**

Honesty and openness always give God more to work with. Repenting of our sins and confident of God's grace let us turn to God in prayer.

## Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, we confess to you and to one another that we fall far short of being all that you created us to be. We have not loved you with our whole heart, preferring instead to pursue our own way, to erect idols of our own making, and secure our own needs. We have not loved others, our neighbors, as you love us. In fact, very often our neighbors are invisible to us. We are too preoccupied, too busy, too self-concerned to notice those on the margins. We have failed to love ourselves as well. Far too often we do not rest, do not exercise; we allow ourselves to be impoverished in soul and spirit. We cling to bitterness and anger, and grasp tightly to the hurts of yesterday rather than entrusting them to your healing grace. O Lord, forgive us all our sins. Grant us the faith to put all our days – past, present, and future – in your safe and capable hands. Grant us the courage to follow boldly and confidently, trusting you to lead us home. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

## Silent Meditation

Kyrie: “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” Hymnal 577

The first system of musical notation is for the hymn 'Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff, with the words 'mer' and 'cy.' split across two lines. The bass line consists of whole notes and half notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the melody.

*Note: Lower voices may hum.*

The second system of musical notation continues the hymn. It features a treble staff with a melody that includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff. The bass line continues with whole and half notes. The system concludes with a double bar line.

## Words of Assurance

Who has a right to judge anyone one of us? Who is in a position to condemn? Only Jesus Christ – and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us. Even now

Jesus Christ prays for each one of us. Brothers and sisters, let us trust in the One who redeems us! In Christ Jesus we are a forgiven people.

This is God's glory!

**Amen! Thanks be to God!**

**\*Response:                      "Glory Be to the Father"                      Hymnal #581**

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.

## **WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God, as you breathe your Word into our hearts, tutor us in faithfulness, that we may become skilled in compassion and grace and trained to use the tools of justice and hope to the glory of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Second Lesson: John 12:20-33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### **\*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 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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; He will come again 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..

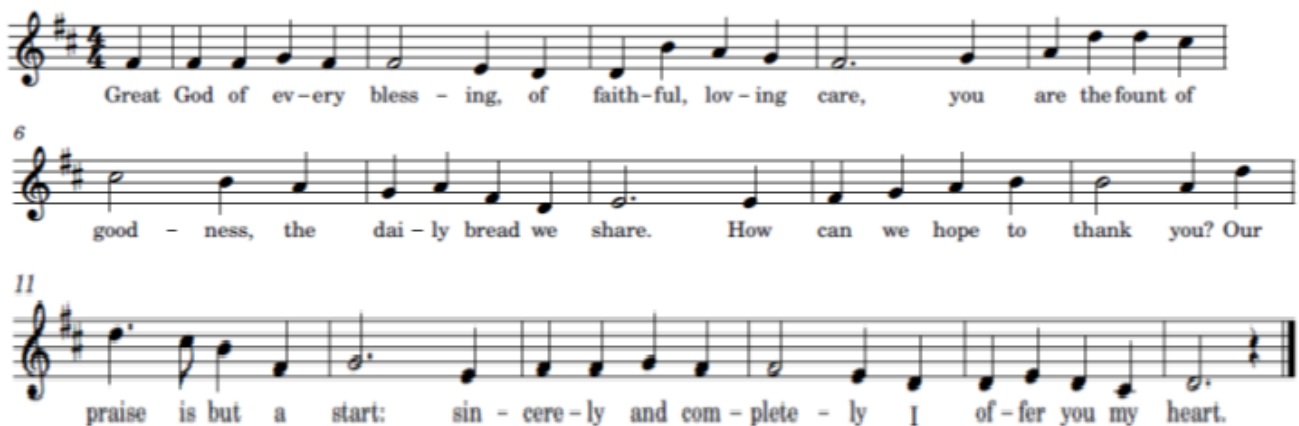
Amen

## Offering Our Life and Gifts

### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory/Meditation**    *Fantasy on The Londonderry Air*    arr Bober

**\*Doxology**                      *Great God of Every Blessing*                      Hymnal #694



## Offertory Prayer

## **The Prayers of the Church**

**Hymn**

**"Open the Eyes of My Heart"**

**Hymnal #452**

### **COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Communion of the People**

**Communion Meditation**

***Be Thou My Vision***

**arr. Kingsmore**

**Prayer**

### **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**

**"In My Life"**

**Hymnal #468**

**\*Charge**

Now go out in joy! Walk in faith. As God's chosen people be merciful action, kindly of heart, humble of mind, always eager to forgive as freely as you have been forgiven. Above all be loving; and never forget to be thankful for all that Christ has done for you.

**\*Benediction**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the comfort and challenge of God the Holy Spirit surround, sustain, and uphold us all this day and every day.

**Benediction Response**

**God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me**

**Hymnal #543**

God, be the love to search and keep me;

God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me;

O Christ, surround me.  
 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
 Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
 Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
 O Christ, surround me;  
 O Christ, surround me;

**Postlude**

***An Irish Blessing***

**arr. Gerlitz**

Ministers in This Sunday's Service

Preacher: Rev. Bobbie Bella  
 Reader: Susan Rogers  
 Musician: Susan Larcey  
 Greeter(s) & Usher(s):  
 Communion Assistants & Ushers:  
 Dave Moore & Jean Witkowski

Ministers in Next Sunday's Service

Preacher: Rev. Bobbie Bella  
 Reader: Karen Dietz  
 Musician: Susan Larcey  
 Matthew Kennicutt, Trumpet  
 Greeter(s) & Usher(s):  
 Communion Assistants & Ushers: Wes  
 Bella & Bill Sharp

THIS WEEK AT FIRELANDS	
Today	<b><i>Adult Education class 9:30 AM            WORSHIP 10:30 AM Followed by Fellowship</i></b>
Monday	10-1 Mon Morn Sewing Group 10:30 – 1 Office Open Noon Women's Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday	
Wednesday	10am – 12pm Lenten Bible Study 10:30 – 12 pm SH Grief support
Thursday	4-5:30 SH Serenity Seekers Cleaning People
Friday	10:30 – 1 Office Open
Saturday	
Next Sunday	<b><i>Adult Education class 9:30 AM            WORSHIP 10:30 AM Followed by Fellowship</i></b>

Pastor Bobbie is in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. 9:30-4:30

Karen Salzgeber will be in the office 10:30-1 on Monday & Friday.

### **Prayer Concerns**

*Brandyn Sinacola, Rob Constien, Kathy Lee, Joseph Kakareka, David Douglass, Joe & Darlene Prestbo, Maryjane Kapela, Rosann Hickman, Peggy McConnell, and Shar.* If you have a name to add to the prayer list, please contact the office. Names remain on this list for up to one month unless they are resubmitted.

### **NW Ohio Alzheimer's Association:** **Port Clinton Caregiver Support Group**

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 4-5 PM

Cheryl Kay Foundation Volunteer Room  
205 SE Catawba Rd Ste J  
Port Clinton, OH 43452

You must register to attend, by calling 567-302- 3608.

**Additional Information:** The Port Clinton Caregiver Support Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4 PM.

### **Attention Singers:**

A community choir will be singing at our ecumenical Good Friday service at St. John Lutheran. If you are interested in taking part in this choral piece, you can call Carrie Sanchez who will be directing at 419-341-5245, or organist Peggy Dorr at 419-355-7664, or simply come to practice on Friday (29 th ) evening at 5:30.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Join us on Thursday, April 18 for a ROAD TRIP to ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY to tour their Artifacts Room . There you will see ancient manuscripts and artifacts from Biblical times. Our carpool will leave Firelands Church at 12:00. The tour begins at 2:00. The space is limited, so sign up soon on sheet on gathering table. Contact Jeanette or Dennis Walls if you have any questions.





## Holy Week Schedule

March 24 Palm Sunday	Blessing of Palms	10:30 AM
March 28 Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion	7 PM
March 29 Good Friday @ St. John Lutheran Church	Choir Practice in Choir loft Ecumenical Service	5:30 PM 6:30 PM
March 31 EASTER Celebration	Holy Communion	10:30 AM