



**Fairmont Presbyterian Church
Kettering, Ohio
February 26, 2023**

FAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

Fairmont Presbyterian Church nurtures and guides people to live inspired lives.

February 26, 2023
10:30am
1st Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Brian Maguire

Prelude

Liebster Jesu

Johann Walther

Call to Worship (Psalm 32)

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress.

People: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Leader: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Hymn 395

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Liebster Jesu

1 Blessed Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God Almighty, your ways are not like our ways and your thoughts are not like our thoughts. We content ourselves with lesser things and lower ourselves to petty desires. We cannot find our way back to you. Forgive us our ignorance and our lack of courage. Forgive us our sin. Reach down to us and lift us up to behold your truth and live a new life according to your intentions. Lead us upward to your Kingdom that we may share in its life...*(silent confession)*... Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response #576** *Lord, Have Mercy* Singapura

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Passing of Christ's Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Time with Our Children

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, You show us your more excellent way, the way of your Kingdom you intend for us and for all people.

People: Blessed are the poor in spirit, who do not rely upon themselves, for they are open to receive everything from God.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, who open space within themselves to be vulnerable and experience heartbreak, for in their emptiness they touch Divine Compassion.

People: Blessed are the meek, who face and tame the wild anxieties and pervasive fears within, for they will inherit the earth.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and search for righteousness, who yearn to find their deepest aliveness in God, for they will be filled with God's presence.

People: Blessed are the merciful, who trust and participate in the giving and receiving of God's own life and love, for they will be filled with all they need.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, whose hearts are not divided, for they will see through the eyes of God.

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, whose hearts are gentled and undivided, for they will live compassionately spreading harmony among God's children.

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, who have learned to trust in Divine Mercy, for in their courage they model the life of God's Kingdom.

People: Rejoice and be glad! You are on the same pathway to true life and freedom as the prophets and saints who walked before you.

Leader: Teach us now this your way, O Lord, through the power of your Spirit that we may follow and make your life our life today. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

God's Special Accommodations, or *why I am a Calvinist*

Rev. Brian Maguire

Hymn 672

O Gladsome Light

Le Cantique De Siméon

1 O gladsome light, O grace
of our Creator's face,
the eternal splendor wearing:
celestial, holy, blest,
our Savior Jesus Christ,
joyful in your appearing.

2 As fades the day's last light,
we see the lamps of night
our common hymn outpouring,
O God of might unknown,
you, the incarnate Son,
and Spirit blest adoring.

3 To you of right belongs
all praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, Life-giver;
you, therefore, O Most High,
the world does glorify
and shall exalt forever.

Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

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 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 on 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.

Doxology *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer (concluding 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.

Invitation and Prayer of Discipleship

We will not be passing the offering plates to collect tithes and offerings today. There is a basket by each exit door for the collection of tithes and offerings. (Loose coins go to *Children and Youth Ministries*.)

Hymn 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* Kingsfold

1 Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud;
we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town

to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Kingsfold

Robert Powell

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Within the Fellowship

For prayer concerns or if you would like to be part of the Email Prayer Chain Team, please contact: Rev. Kelley Shin at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

For emergencies, contact Rev. Brian Maquire at (937) 269-2864 or Rev. Kelley Shin at (937) 751-0752.

Announcements

March 2023 Connections: The World of the New Testament

Join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom, we will be exploring the context of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth through the lens of the Gospel of Matthew. Together we will explore the ways in which Jesus' world was so different from our own.

March 1	Jesus and the Roman World (The Hellenistic World)
March 8	Jesus and the Roman World (the local context of Galilee)
March 15	Women, Children, and Families in the Roman World
March 22	Jesus and Popular Religion
March 29	Jesus and other Messiah Claimants

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945327813>

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

Join us for Bible Study this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will be prayerfully considering the text for the following Sunday morning. You do not need any preparation and everyone is welcome.

This week we will be reflecting on Matthew 5:21-26. You are invited!

Thursdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002536057>

Meeting ID: 820 0253 6057

Theology on Tap will meet in-person at Marion's Piazza on Stroop (50 East Stroop Road) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023.

Children's Choir Returns! Back by popular demand, our Children's Choir will sing for the congregation again on **Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023!** Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings at 9:30am, beginning March 5th. Children ages 4 - grade 5 are invited to participate. Please reach out to Loralei if your child would like to sing!

Acolytes & Lectors: We are seeking children to serve as acolytes and lectors during 10:30am worship! **Acolytes** must have the height and balance required to stand on a stool while lighting the tall candelabras in the sanctuary. **Lectors** need to have good reading skills. Please reach out to Loralei if your child would like to be considered for this!

Women of Fairmont: New books related to our study, *Celebrating Sabbath*, are in the church library. Look for the display on top of the short bookcase near the children's table. Please sign out books in the binder at the desk.

What is Per Capita and why is it \$53.10? The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. That means that we share in mutual ministry and accountability with and for each other. One of the ways we do that is by sharing in the cost of the denomination. This is done through individual assessments based on the number of members in each church. These assessments, called "per capita," are mandatory and are used to support the work of the General Assembly and the Synod. Those funds are obtained either from our general Fairmont revenues or from special offerings of individuals who wish to pay their share individually. The total per member assessment for 2023 is \$53.10. That is the cost of being a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination as opposed to the local congregation. If you would like to directly pay your share of our commitment to the greater church, the amount per member is \$53.10.

World Central Kitchen in Turkey

In Turkey, the World Central Kitchen team is working urgently to establish kitchens & scale up meal deliveries—yesterday WCK brought flour, oil, and other ingredients to a restaurant partner in İskenderun so they could immediately begin cooking hot meals for displaced families. The quakes destroyed thousands of buildings & left thousands more unsafe to inhabit. WCK delivered meals at a parking lot in İskenderun where hundreds of people are spending the night. They are quickly expanding their presence and resources to feed thousands in Turkey who are without food due to the devastating earthquakes. **You may give to The World Central Kitchen through Fairmont's online Portal of Giving at www.fairmontchurch.org (note Turkey in the "Other" box) or by mailing a check to Fairmont Presbyterian Church with "Turkey" in the memo line.**

Brian's Nerdy Bible Notes on Faith and Law

Some things get lost in translation. When the Bible was first translated into English, the Hebrew word *Torah* was rendered as "law." That is a problem, because while *Torah* can mean law, it more generally means teaching or instruction. This has caused enormous confusion in Christian theology and misunderstandings between Christians and Jews.

Torah refers to (1.) the first five books of the Bible, otherwise known as the Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy); (2.) the combined instructions for human life contained within those five books; and (3.) in a general sense the pattern of human behavior that God intends for human beings. The important thing to remember is that *Torah* has never been a list of criteria for salvation. Jews, both in Jesus' day and our own, do not believe that compliance with *Torah*, however that is understood, is how one earns resurrection. Instead, *Torah* is considered to be the description of the pattern of human life the way God intends it to be lived. *Torah* is a guide for how to live, not a guide for how to get to heaven. We are instead saved, according to Judaism, because of God's covenant faithfulness to us, not because of our faithfulness to *Torah*.

Torah provides instead a normative teaching on how human beings should live their lives and relate to God and other people. Implicit in this idea is that there is no clear distinction between faith and action. What we believe shapes what we do and what we do shapes what we believe. A normative blueprint for human conduct is therefore also a plan to nurture faith. These collected teachings are therefore God's developmental project to transform human life and relationships.

Torah did and does however function as the criteria for who would be considered a Jew. "Israel" can therefore be defined functionally as those people who follow *Torah*. In the early church there was considerable disagreement over whether gentile followers of Jesus, who did not follow *Torah*, would be required to submit to it. Paul argued strongly (especially in *Galatians*) that they do not and should not be required to first become Jews on the basis of scripture. Paul pointed out that the vision of the coming of God's Kingdom in *Isaiah* specifically envisions the gentiles as gentiles coming to worship God in Jerusalem, not gentiles who now convert to Jews. So, for Paul, the fact that gentiles as gentiles were coming to worship God was proof that the Kingdom of God was approaching through the work of Jesus Christ. As a practical matter the question was settled at the Jerusalem Council described in Acts 15. When Paul, Peter, James and the other apostles decided that gentile followers of Jesus would not be required to first comply with *Torah* with four exceptions. Those four exceptions, sometimes called the Apostolic Decree or the Jerusalem Quadrilateral, prohibit the gentile followers of Jesus from: (1.) eating from food dedicated to idols; (2.) sexual immorality; (3.) eating animals that have been strangled; and (4.) consuming blood (Acts 15:20). Those four prohibitions from *Torah* remain in place for all gentile Christians.

Worship Staff

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GATHERING

395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow-ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

O Gladsome Light 672



1 O glad-some light, O grace of our Cre - a - tor's face,
 2 As fades the day's last light, we see the lamps of night
 3 To you of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs,



the e - ter - nal splen-dor wear - ing: ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 our com-mon hymn out - pour - ing, O God of might un-known,
 O Son of God, Life - giv - er; you, there-fore, O Most High,



our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in your ap - pear - ing.
 you, the in - car - nate Son, and Spir - it blest a - dor - ing.
 the world does glo - ri - fy and shall ex - alt for - ev - er.



This paraphrase of a 3rd-century Christian lamplighting hymn (see also nos. 671 and 673) was created by an English poet who, as a former parish choirmaster, had developed a keen musical sensitivity. He wrote with this Genevan tune in mind, which initiated this continuing pairing of words and music.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1. To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2. God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might-y
 4. May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing.

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

