

# ENTER GOD’S PRESENCE

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Fantasy on “Londonderry Air”*

Arranged by Jason Krug

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

† *indicates the congregation should stand*

L: Have you had enough of the wisdom of the world?

P: **Yes, we’ve had enough!**

L: Do you want to know true wisdom?

P: **Yes, we do!**

L: Do you want to be taught, given, led, and confirmed in the holiness of Christ Jesus, our Lord?

P: **Yes, we long for this.**

L: Come and embrace the ways of God, the ways of true life and wisdom.

## † PROCESSIONAL HYMN 550

*Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

CANTERBURY

## † PRAYER

**Almighty Teacher, instruct us in Your statutes today. Help us turn the other cheek when we are wronged and do so without bitterness. Inspire us to give to those in need and do so without resentment. Turn our hearts, that we may learn how to love our neighbor, even our enemies. Teach us and show us the way of holiness, that we may be a holy people. Amen.**

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

*For New Members*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races. **I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church and serve as Christ’s representatives in the world? **I will.**

### Reception into the United Methodist Church

*For New Members*

As members of Christ’s universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? **I will.**

### Reception in the Local Congregation

*For Congregation*

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? **I will.**

### Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

*The Congregation Responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

## ANTHEM

*Christ Be Our Seed*

Music by Carl Schalk

God prints the name of Christ upon the spirit. God leads the walk through hills and ocean sand. God wills each one a heritage of riches and holds all life inside a healing hand. God is the source of daily health and healing, God makes us well with medicines of life. God is the spring, the fountain of thanksgiving, all words of grace, all faith to heal our strife. God knows the heart, the reasons we are crying, God knows the mind, each feeling, new inside. God knows old dreams, new things we want tomorrow, God knows the fear a silent soul will hide. God sends the light to wake the birth of seeding, and gives old death an Easter day to rise, God sends the rain, the seasons, then the harvest, while tunes of glory fill all earth and skies. Christ be our seed, to grow what God has given; we do our work, as work in Jesus’ name. We lift our hope, our want, our need before thee. You healed us then; heal us once again.

# LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

## CALL TO THE WORD

In today’s gospel, Jesus surprises the crowds with new ways to consider our actions and responses. Jesus always hopes that we will act without limits on our love and our forgiveness. Often, this seems impossible to do; yet if we pray and strive to have an open heart, eventually we will be able to forgive the individual and hopefully develop a healthier relationship with him or her. The ball is in our court!

## † GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:38-48

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SERMON

*Beyond Retaliation, Towards Perfection*

Pastor Karen Crawford

# RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom You have made.

P: **We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

L: As we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives.

P: **We continually seek to give ourselves to Your service and walk in holiness and righteousness all our days. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

To make your weekly gift, use one of these options:

- **Collection Plate:** passed through the pews and chairs
- **Realm eGiving:** [www.cos-umc.org/give](http://www.cos-umc.org/give) (click GIVE)
- **Text to Give:** Text GIVECOS to 73256 (follow the prompts)
- **Online Bill Pay:** (no fee to the church, no postage for you)
- **Mail a Check:** Attn: Contributions Secretary

## OFFERTORY

*Rock of Ages*

Arranged by Don Hustad

## † DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring these offerings to You, O Lord, not because You need them but because You are holy. Through these resources we ask that he who is without a cloak be clothed, and she who is hungry be fed. We bring these offerings before You and ask that they be used to fulfill Your holy purposes. Amen.

## DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

### † RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us.* To the tune BEACH SPRING  
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Christ, your words of love confound us, even as we give you praise,  
for the lessons that you teach us seem so far from this world's ways.  
How can we love those who hate us? How can we love enemies?  
What of people who abuse us? How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action, not a feeling that uplifts.  
In each daily situation, love's the greatest of all gifts.  
It's the wiser, stronger person who will break the chain of hate.  
Love can usher in redemption; love can make a people great.

Faced with those who seek to hurt us, make us confident and free:  
you don't call us to be helpless but to stand with dignity.  
Lord, when others are demanding, may we know they matter more  
than our money or possessions. May we share, not keeping score.

If we love just those who love us, where's the giving? Where's the grace?  
Even sinners try to do this; they have friends that they embrace.  
May we do, Lord, unto others as we'd have them also do.  
You have shown us: Love is action. May we love, and make things new.

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Arranged by Don Hustad

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## IN WORSHIP TODAY

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Doug and Mary Ann Bell, in honor of their son Steve's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday!

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Meshach Kanyion, *Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Dr. Karen Crawford, *Associate Pastor*  
Jon Yaney, *Youth Director*  
Nolan Anderson and Nikhil Gupta, *Acolytes*  
Larry Verdier, *Lay Reader*  
Joe Galyon, *Director of Worship and Arts*  
Musicians, *Covenant Ringers, Covenant Choir*  
Peyton Voline, *Worship Technology Coordinator*  
Gordon Stokley, *Presentation Operator*  
Samantha Zeisler, *Video Mixer*

### TELL US YOU'RE HERE

Point your phone camera to this QR code to tell us you are here and let us know of any prayer requests you may have.



More information about our ministries is available at [www.cos-umc.org](http://www.cos-umc.org).

Church of the SAVIOUR   
UNITED METHODIST

8005 Pfeiffer Road | Cincinnati, OH 45242 | 513.791.3142

January 29, 2023  
11:00 am

*A Glorious Life*

