

# Parma Greece United Church of Christ

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*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

January 4, 2015

Second After Christmas

### **The Prelude**

### **Ringling Of The Bell**

### **Word of Greeting and Announcements**

### **Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

### **Musical Meditation**

### **Call to Worship**

Liturgist: On this day, we remember the gift of God's Word-Jesus,

**People: who gathers us together from the farthest parts of  
the world to worship in joy and hope.**

Liturgist: On this day, we remember the simple graces of the  
bread and the cup,

**People: those plain gifts shaped by God's love into nourishing  
hope.**

### **\*The Hymn**

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

#87

### **\*The Call To Confession**

Liturgist: The gift of God's grace is lavished upon us, poured out  
like water—through the life and death of the risen Lord.  
Trusting in the love and goodness of God, let us confess  
our sin.

**\*The Prayer of Confession-Unison**

**Holy God, You have given us everything; we have failed to respond with gratitude.**

**In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your Word; we answer with empty promises.**

**In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your light; we try to hide ourselves from your glory.**

**In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your life; even this precious gift we have not received.**

**Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us.**

**In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what You created us to be:**

**beloved children, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance and Pardon**

Liturgist: Brothers and sisters, you have been called by God, claimed in Christ, set free through the Spirit.

Believe this good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

**People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

**\*An Act of Praise**

"The Gloria in Excelsis"

Insert

**A Time With Young Christians**

**Child of God, your loving parent, learn to know whose child you are.**

**Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.**

## **The Collect - Unison**

**Shine upon us, God of glory, and by Your Spirit reveal to us the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Reading of God's Word**

Old Testament Lesson      Jeremiah 31:7-14    Page 734

Epistle Lesson                Ephesians 1:3-14    Page 192

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel Lesson                John 1:1-18            Page 91

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **The Homily**

*"Let The Light Shine Upon Us"*

## **\*The Hymn**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

#160

## **The Call to Prayer**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Silent Prayers of the People**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **The Prayer Response**

"Into My Heart"

## **The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings**

### **The Offertory**

#### **\*The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above Ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

#### **\*The Prayer of Dedication - Unison**

**We give you thanks, God of all creation, for the power of your life-giving Word, making the winds blow and the waters flow. Receive these gifts from our hands, and use them to bring peace and blessing. Amen.**

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

## The Approach

Liturgist: Behold, I stand at the door and knock;  
if those who hear My voice open the door,  
I will come in to them and eat with them,  
and they with Me.

**People: O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Happy are all who find refuge in God!**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Liturgist: May the God of newness be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: People of Christmas, offer your hearts to God.

**People: We lift them to the One who comes,  
new hope and life cradled in loving hands.**

Liturgist: People of the Holy One of Bethlehem, sing glad  
praises to our God. We come, for we have received  
the good news,

**People: we have believed the Word, we are given joyful  
songs to sing.**

Liturgist: We give You thanks, Holy Wisdom,  
Creator of heaven and earth, for from Your endless  
stores of creativity You have shaped the universe--  
sun and moon and stars  
planets spinning in exquisite rotation  
galaxies ever-moving and ever-alive.  
You have created this planet and all that is needed to  
sustain life --

rivers and oceans, mountains and plains,  
trees and plants and flowers,  
fire and oxygen and water.

You have given us all that we need to be full --  
joy and hope and food and drink,  
Your word and Your love,  
creative powers and  
wisdom and insight to choose the good.

When we have fallen short of Your intentions,  
gracious God, You have sent women and men  
to bring us back to the life to which You call us.  
In the fullness of time, You sent Your very own Son,  
Jesus of Nazareth,

child of Your heart,  
child of Your spirit,  
child of Your Divine Presence,

to dwell in our midst, and  
to be for us what we could not be for ourselves.  
In Christ's ministry we see the great company gathering in  
Your midst. The sick, the broken, the lost are all Your  
children, and we long to join them in the festival.

Through Christ's Spirit, the world is renewed as the  
prophets foretold, Your church becomes a place from  
which Your justice and peace flows, and we are made  
new in love.

Therefore, with all the saints in every time and place,  
we join in praising You, singing:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of every blessing.  
All creation lavishes praise on you.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes to live among us.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Liturgist: We remember that on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said to them, "Take and eat, for this is my body, broken for you."  
Again after supper he took the cup, blessed it and shared it with the disciples, likewise saying, "Take and drink, this is my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink this, remember me."

Bless now, redeeming God, these gifts of Your abundant earth. As we share these gifts among Your children here gathered, may this bread and the fruit of this vine nourish us --body and soul – to be a part of the "great company" of Your reconciliation. In Christ we pray. Amen.

### **The Prayer Of Our Savior - Singing**

**Our Father, Which 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 Communion** {Bread is gluten free. Grape juice in center of tray.}

**\*The Hymn** "Arise, Your Light Is Come" #164

**\*The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Love and care for one another in the name of Christ.  
Take your encouragement from Christ,  
that your joy may be complete.

**People: We will share in the Spirit;  
We will find consolation in love.**

Liturgist: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion  
for God is at work in you, empowering you.

**People: We will welcome Christ into our hearts.  
We will live worthy of the Gospel.  
We will go forth in hope and in peace. Amen.**

**\*The Benediction Response** "Let There Be Peace On Earth"  
[ Laminated Card in Pew Rack]

**\*The Postlude**