

# 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

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent

**The Prelude**

**Ring of The Bell**

**Word of Greeting and Announcements**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**Musical Meditation**

**Call to Worship**

Liturgist: We gather this day to worship our God,  
Whose words and ways challenge us.

**People: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find  
ourselves.**

Liturgist: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth  
the wisdom of Christ.

**People: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover  
life's fullness.**

Liturgist: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might  
know true freedom.

**People: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our  
faith challenged and grow.**

Liturgist: We root our faith in worship seeking to find nourishment  
for our spirits in this growing.

**\*The Hymn**

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

#70

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

Liturgist: Trusting in God's promise of salvation,  
let us confess our sin to God and one another.

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

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that at times, we have not been sincere in  
our faith journey.**

**We claim to follow Jesus,**

**but have not taken His path of sacrificial love.**

**We profess to be disciples,**

**but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.**

**We affirm the virtue of self-denial,**

**but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.**

**Forgive us we pray.**

**Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **\*The Kyrie**

### **\*Words of Assurance and Pardon**

Liturgist: Here the good news;

God deems as righteousness all who trust that Jesus  
has been raised from the dead for our salvation. In  
the name of the Christ, I announce 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

Gracious and Holy God,  
open our hearts to receive Your Word, revealed to us  
in Holy Scripture as we hear it this day. We pray  
in the name of our Lord who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### The Reading of God's Word

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16                      Page 13

Romans 4:13-25                              Page 155

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. Mark.

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

Mark 8:31-38                              Page 44

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

### The Homily

*"I Hate When He Says That..."*

### \*The Hymn

"'Take Up Your Cross', the Savior Said"

#204

## **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 heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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

**Holy One, accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world around us a sign of Your abiding love. In the name of Christ we pray. 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: The God of the Lenten journey be with You.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Open your hearts to God, heirs of the covenant.

**People: We open them to the One Who fills them with promise.**

Liturgist: Let us lift glad songs to our exceedingly faithful God.

**People: Our praise will resound in this great congregation.**

Liturgist: "Walk before me," You whispered to creation,  
God of the covenant, and wonders beyond  
imagination sprang forth: bees flitting from flower  
to hive, planets spun from the gases of space,  
dinosaurs plodding through forests. All this exceeding  
fruitfulness was offered to those You shaped in Your  
image, that we might live in relationship with You, but  
sin's praises weakened our faith, and we stood  
in awe of death. Prophets came, calling us to set  
our minds on all things divine, but we turned a deaf

ear to their impassioned pleadings. So You chose to send Jesus to teach us Your heart by the way He lived and loved.

With those who find self-denial easy,  
with those who find their cross too heavy,  
we glorify You in these moments:

All: **Holy, holy, holy are You, God Who calls us by new names. All creation praises Your surpassing wonders. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes to us for our sake. Hosanna in the highest!**

Liturgist: You are holy, God of every promise, and we are blessed by Your Son, Jesus Christ. He did not act as if He had no use for us, but called us His sisters and brothers. He was not disheartened by those sins which tormented us, but came to heal us. He did not turn a deaf ear to us, but listened to us in a way no one else ever did. He rebuked death, declaring, "get behind me," as He walked out into resurrection's dawn. As we remember Jesus' ministry and death, as we would seek to live for Him, we proclaim that mystery we know as faith:

All: **Christ died, taking up his cross and following God;  
Christ was raised, the covenant promise fulfilled;  
Christ will come, declaring "God has done it!"**

Liturgist: Because our faith depends on your grace, pour out Your Spirit upon this feast and those You welcome to the Table. As You nourish us with broken bread, send us forth to feed the poor until they are filled,

to clothe the naked until they are warm. As You strengthen us with the cup of grace, we will take the hand of searchers so, together, we may find You; we will welcome those rebuked by the world, so our hearts might live forever. And when You gather your great congregation around the Lamb's Table, we will join our voices in proclaiming, "You have done it, God in Community, Holy in One!" Amen.

### **The Breaking of Bread and Pouring the Cup**

#### **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 Blessing and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*The Hymn**

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

#573

## **\*The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Go from this place to a world fully known by God.

Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ.

Where there is need of love, give it.

Where there is pain, bring peace.

For you are loved by the One who redeems,  
and freed to live by the Word of life.

Go then in peace, love and care for each other in the  
name of Christ and the blessing of the Holy One be  
with you all.

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

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

**\*The Postlude**