

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

Roger Leighton, Moderator

*"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 6, 2016

Fourth 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 know that in God our sin is forgiven;

People: We know that in Christ we have new life.

Liturgist: We know that when we confess where we have
gone wrong,

**People: God is already waiting with open arms to welcome
us back.**

Liturgist: We enter this time of worship, knowing that we have
made mistakes;

**People: We enter this time of worship knowing we have new
life in Christ, Who continues to set our feet onto the
path of righteousness.**

***The Hymn**

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

#547

***The Call to Confession**

Trusting in divine mercy, and with humble hearts,
let us confess our sin to God and one another.

***The Prayer of Confession – Unison**

We come before You, O Christ, confessing that we have not forgiven others for the same mistakes we continue to make. We have not shown mercy when we have been shown mercy. We have judged others while asking to not be judged for our own ignorance and misunderstandings. Forgive us for not sharing grace and mercy. Forgive us for demanding so much of others while seeking forgiveness for ourselves. Help us to see our kindred in Christ, all of Your children, the way You see us, made in Your image, forgiven and restored. Amen.

***The Kyrie**

***The Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: God rolls away everything that stands in our way – our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

People: Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

***An Act of Praise "The Gloria Patri"**

**Gloria 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**

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

Almighty God, by Your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts
to the re-creating power of Your Word, that we may see the
world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a
foretaste of Your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Joshua 5:9-12 Page 201

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Page 181

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. Luke

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Page 78

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Anthem "As Only God Above Can Do"

The Homily "Rejoicing In Lent"

***The Hymn** "O God, How We Have Wandered"

#202

The Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Silent Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Response

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

O God, all that we have comes from You. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to You only what You have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Approach

Liturgist: Christ invites to this table all who confess faith in His promises and who intend to live as His people.

People: As God's forgiven and accepted people, let us approach this table in humility.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Liturgist: May our God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Lift your hearts to the One who welcomes us home.

People: We open them to our God, who runs to embrace us with grace.

Liturgist: Sing glad songs to the One who provides this feast.

People: We join in singing to God, who throws a party for us

in this place.

Liturgist: On those days You called creation from the hiding places, mighty rivers rushed down to the seas, a rainbow of produce sprang up in fields, day and night rippled with Your beauty. All this was from You, God of Wonder, gifts for those created in Your image. But we demanded our share, traveling to that far country called death, squandering everything in sin's hidden shadows. Longing for us to come home, You sent the prophets to surround us with glad songs of deliverance, but we regarded their words as empty husks, continuing to waste away all our days. So You sent Jesus, Your Son, to lead us back from the dead so we might celebrate Your life. With all the prodigals as well as the pious, with all the saints as well as the sinners, with all the faithful, we sing to You:

Holy, holy, holy, God who reconciles us to yourself.

All creation is glad and rejoices.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who finds the lost and guides them home. Hosanna in the highest!

Liturgist: Holy are You, God of prodigals, and blessed is Jesus Christ, in whom there is no deceit. Coming to that far country we call life, He shared the gifts of grace and peace, telling us stories of families reunited. He points us to You sitting by the kingdom's window, seeing us green-eyed with jealousy. He hands us the glasses of reconciliation so we might see others in a new way. Going to the cross and dying, He comes

to life in joy, surrounded by Your glad cries of resurrection.

As we remember how He welcomed those we overlook,
as we celebrate at the feast which is offered in His name,
we would reflect on that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, to be our salvation;
Christ was raised, to be our reconciliation;
Christ will return, to lead us home.**

Liturgist: On this day, Parenting God, pour out Your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup, the celebration of our new life with You. In this feast You provide, we find the healing we hunger for in the bread which is broken for us. At this table of peace and joy, in the deep richness of grace's cup, we receive new sight, so we can see our sisters and brothers in a new way, not strangers, but siblings, not outsiders, but members of the family.

And on the very day when all time will end, we will gather with Your family around Your table, our voices singing through all eternity glad songs to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Words of Institution

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 (Grape juice in center of tray/Bread is gluten free)

The Blessing

The Prayer of Thanksgiving – Unison

**Gracious God, in this Holy Meal You have given us a
foretaste of Your eternal banquet. Send us out in the
power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise
and glory. Amen.**

The Hymn

“The Love of Jesus”

-Foundation

**The love of Christ Jesus is urging us on,
For we find our life in what Jesus has done.
He died and is risen; now we're dead to sin!
No longer our own, we have new life in him.**

**The love of Christ Jesus is changing our view;
In valleys of death, we see God's reign break through.
Where others seek vengeance, Christ calls us to live
Forgiven in him — able, then, to forgive.**

**The love of Christ Jesus leads Christians to care;
When people are hungry, he calls us to share.
He gives us a job — to get out of our pews,
To work for God's justice and live the good news.**

**The love of Christ Jesus is urging us on
When others grow weary or say hope is gone.
He calls us to serve him again and again;
No longer our own, all our life is in him.**

***The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Go in peace, love and care for one another in the
name of Christ.

The God of reconciliation bless you,
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you.

People: Amen.

***The Benediction Response**

"Let There Be Peace On Earth
"Laminated Card in Pew Rack"

***The Postlude**

**"The Love of Christ Jesus is Urging Us On" was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette,
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