

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 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Word of Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Musical Meditation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Come, friends, and sit with Him who cares for family
and strangers alike.

**People: We gather with the One whose lavish love has been
poured out for all.**

Liturgist: Let us bring to Him our best, and pour out our lives as
a gift to Him.

**People: May our hearts be open to the beauty of Christ's
presence as we worship Him in spirit and in truth.**

***The Hymn**

"I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty"

50

***The Call to Confession**

As we offer our prayers of confession, remember that God
chooses to forget about our past, forgiving us so we may
embrace the new life and new hope offered to us in grace.

I invite you to join me, as we pray together,

***The Prayer of Confession – Unison**

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about Your generous ways, rather than living in Your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things You do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By Your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem.

***The Kyrie**

***The Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

People: Thanks be to God,

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

Gracious God, let Your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills the house and our lives. Then anointed with Your word send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Isaiah 43:16-21 Page 672

Philippians 3:4b-14 Page 198

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 according to St. Luke.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 12:1-8 Page 106

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Homily *“Extravagantly Grateful and Generous”*

***The Hymn** “When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume”

-Ellacombe

**When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there
was sweet.**

**But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this more!
Why was her gift not sold instead and given to the poor?"**

**The Lord replied, "Leave her alone! She bought it for this day.
This caring love that she has shown is faithful to God's way.
The poor will always be with you, but you will not have Me."
He blessed her and He thanked her, too, for giving lavishly.**

**O Christ, what can Your people bring to show You thanks
and love?**

**You need no fragrant offering; for now You reign above.
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,
May we, Your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.**

The Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Silent Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Of Our Savior

**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.**

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**

If we want to know You, Generous God, we must see You in those all around us. If we want to serve You, we must give up that which is most important to us, even our material resources, so that blessings of hope and life might be offered to the needy, the lonely, the hungry all around us. Receive our gifts, we pray, so that others might be transformed even as we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Hymn

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

#448

***The Commission and Benediction**

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

**May the mercy of God ground us,
the love of Christ take root in us,
and the Holy Spirit grow in us.**

People: Amen.

***The Benediction Response**

***The Postlude**