

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

September 20, 2015

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Prelude

Ring of The Bell

Word of Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Musical Meditation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Our world offers many wide avenues
and beautiful boulevards to walk;

**People: Our God invites us to walk the road
of service and sacrifice.**

Liturgist: Our society suggests we put down our roots
in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**People: Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,
watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

Liturgist: Our culture promotes achievement, success,
climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**People: Our God tells us if we want to be first
we need to go to the end of the line.**

***The Hymn**

"Children of God"

#533

***Prayer of Invocation-Unison**

Holy One, as we come to this time of worship, renew in us a sense of awe and wonder. Make Your Word known to us and stretch out Your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of the wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines that we need to stay in touch with You each day. Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

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

**Glory 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

Holy One, God of Wisdom, open to us Your truth that we may bear good fruit and pursue peaceable goals. Keep us from jealousy and selfish ambitions, from uncertainty and insincerity. May we be servants of Your highest purposes. In Jesus' name we pray, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Liturgist: Listen now for the Word of God.

Psalm 54 Page 522

James 3;13-4:3, 7-8a Page 230

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 9:30-37 Page 45

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Homily "Why A Child?"

***The Hymn** "Be Now My Vision" #451

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 "Spirit of the Living God" #283

The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings

The Offertory

***The Offertory Response**

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**

Rather than boast of all that we have and are, may we humble ourselves, as we offer our lives, our hearts, and our gifts, in putting others first, that they might discover the wonders of the kingdom of grace and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***The Hymn**

“Born of God, Eternal Savior”

#542

***The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: May God, who watches over all the righteous,
give you the gifts needed to be a capable servant.

May Jesus Christ, who welcomes everyone, give you
the loving heart of a child so that you can welcome
others unconditionally.

May the Holy Spirit, who gives us the understanding
we need to love God and to love others, give us
unselfish and generous hearts, to heal relationships
and to live in peace.

People: Amen.

***The Benediction Response**

-Amazing Grace

**Through Christ you are a child of God
who dearly loves us all.**

**Go forth in peace to share God's love;
rise up to heed Christ's call.**

***The Postlude**