St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

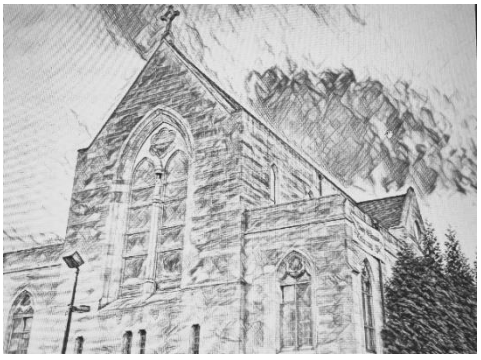
Sunday, October 1, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming & Fall Reunion

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net

Our mission

St. Paul's is a radically welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, called by God's Love to minister to the world.

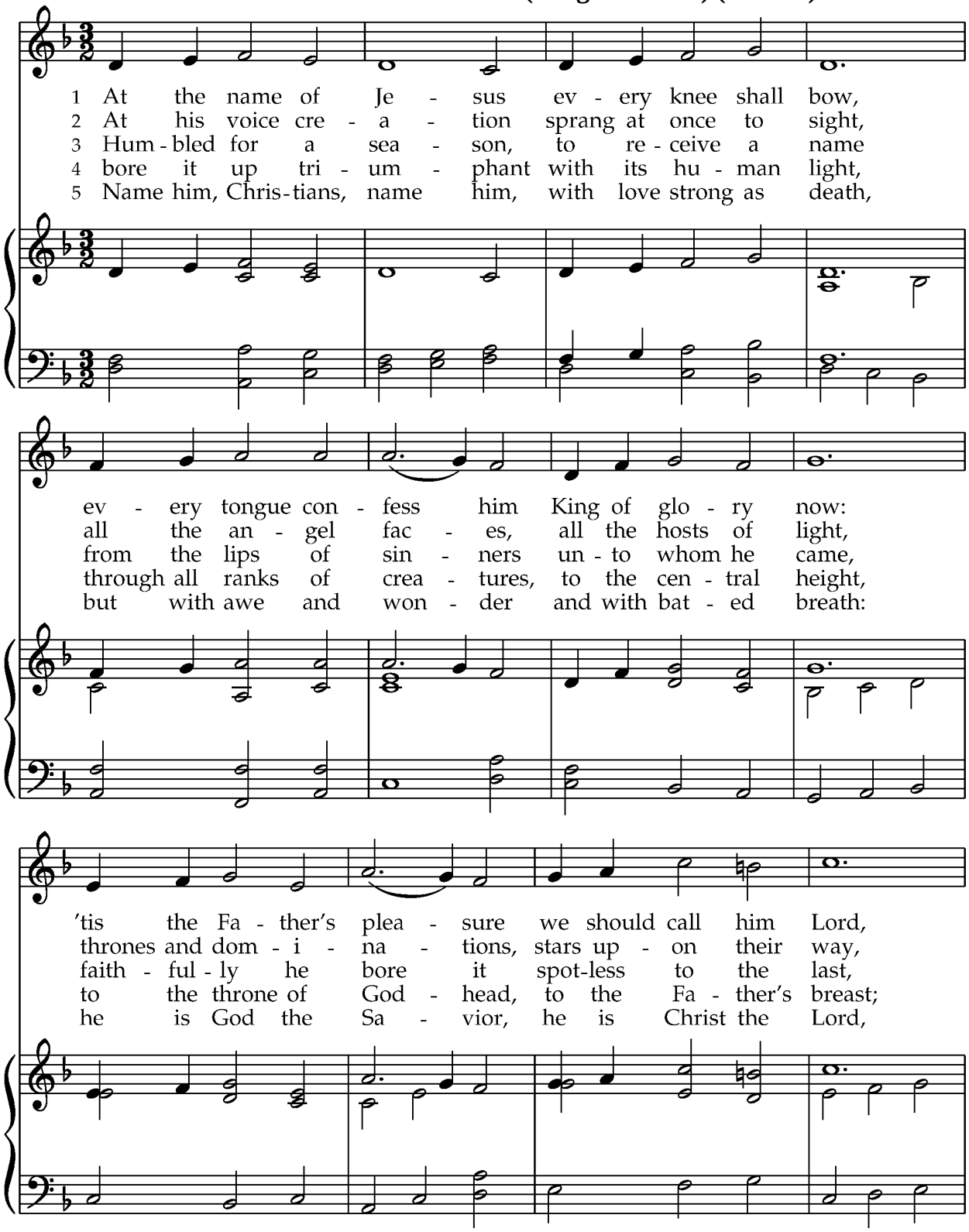
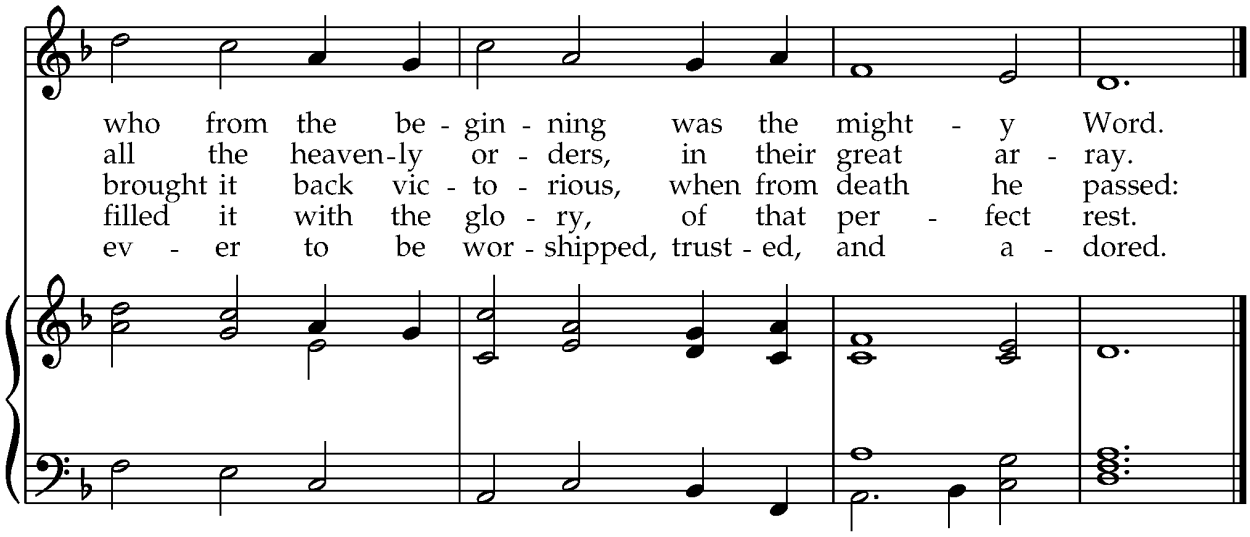
All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish, at 330-455-0286.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Readings and Psalm
First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm: Psalm 25:1-8
Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Prelude: Chorale prelude on *Schmucke dich* by Marcel Dupre

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN "At the Name of Jesus" (King's Weston) (VF 135)



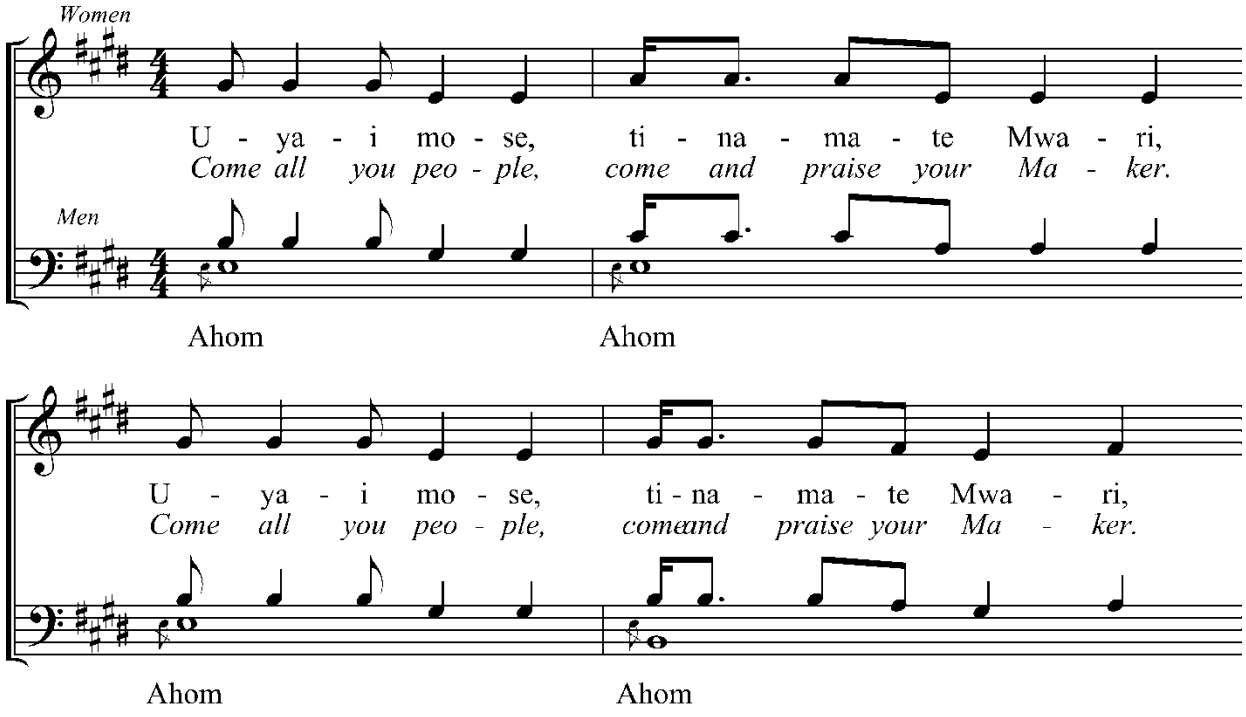
OPENING ACCLAMATION

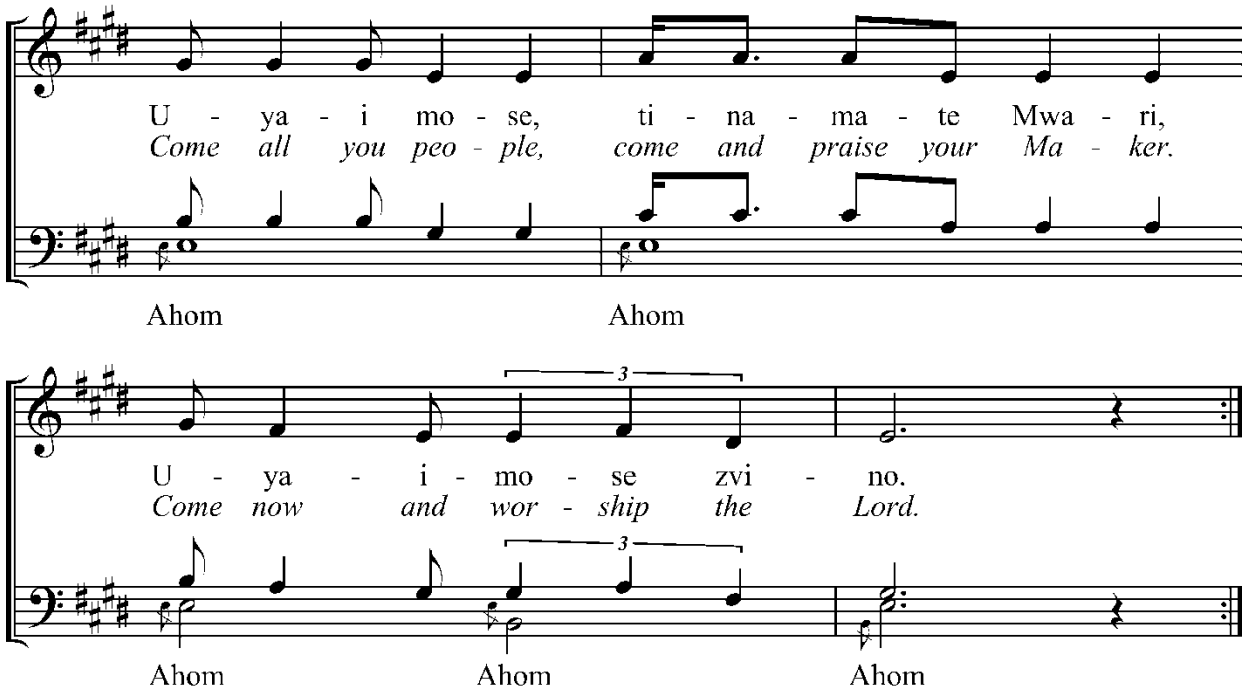
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SONG OF PRAISE *"Come All You People"* (MHSO 2)





Words and Music: Alexander Gondo; arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 WGRG The Iona Communicty (Scotland) (admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

[1]The word of the LORD came to me: [2]What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? [3]"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4]Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

[25]Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my
way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? [26]When the righteous turn away from their
righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have
committed they shall die. [27]Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they
have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. [28]Because they
considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they
shall surely live; they shall not die. [29]Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is
unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
[30]Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,”
says the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will
be your ruin. [31]Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed
against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house
of Israel? [32]For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn,
then, and live.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-8

Remain seated.

[1]To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
[2]Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
[3]Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
[4]Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
[5]Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
[6]Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
[7]Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
[8]He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13
The people sit.

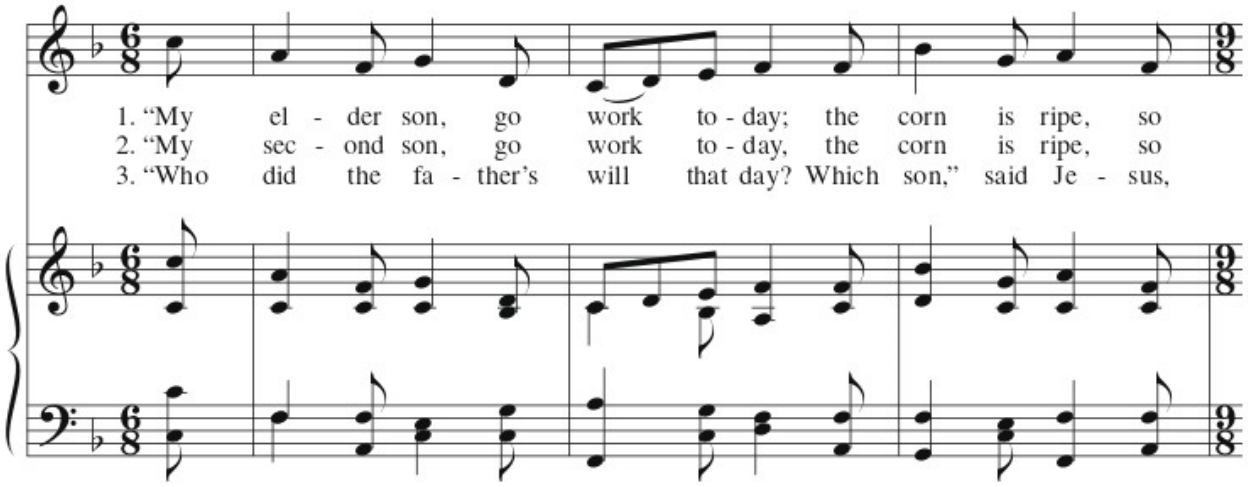
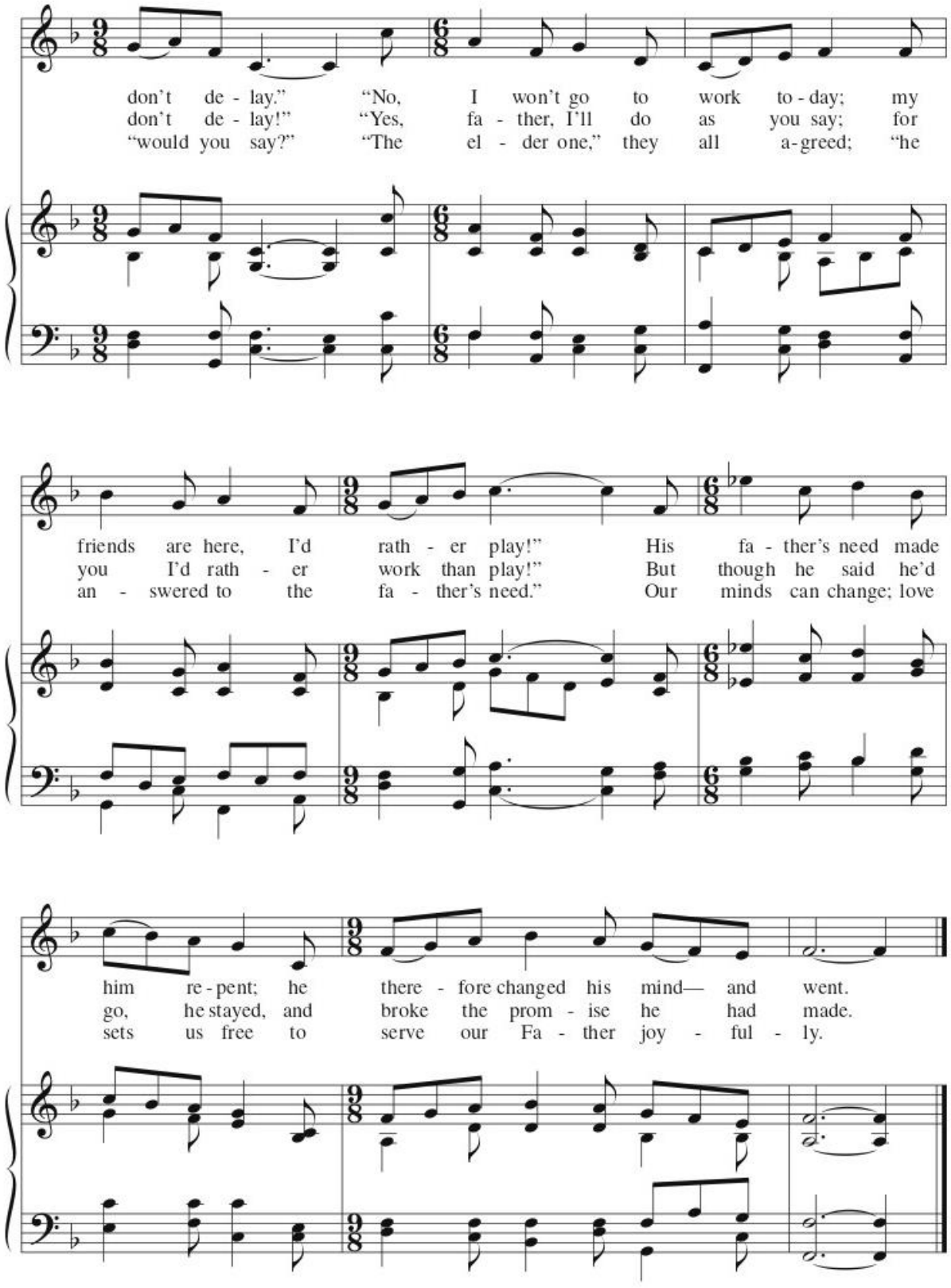
A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

[1]If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in
the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, [2]make my joy complete: be of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from selfish
ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4]Let each of
you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. [5]Let the same mind be in
you that was in Christ Jesus, [6]who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God as something to be exploited, [7]but emptied himself, taking the form of
a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, [8]he humbled
himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

[9]Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
[10]so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under
the earth, [11]and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.

[12]Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
[13]for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*: "The Elder Son, Go Work Today"*
All stand.

Text: Rae E. Whitney, b.1927; © 1995, Selah Publishing, Co., Inc.
Music: HICKORY HILL; Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946; © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[23]When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to
him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who
gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you
tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]Did the
baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with
one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe
him?' [26]But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John
as a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

[28]"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and
work in the vineyard today.' [29]He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind
and went. [30]The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir';
but he did not go. [31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."
Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into
the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32]For John came to you in the way of righteousness
and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and
even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: *Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry*

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
he has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For our president; local elected officials; for this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are ill, especially Fred, Sr. Rosina, Ron Neidig, June Geary, Margaret Fox, Laurie Rohr, Alisha Rittenour, Jackson, Douglas Colmery, Stacy, John Titmas, Bob Arnold, Joe Myers, Ed Sutek, Rachel Valentine Sutek, Kamau, Rev. Wendy, and Don.
We pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the Cuyahoga Mission Area. (See bulletin for a list of names). In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Anne our bishop, for Robin our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

<u>YOUR INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS ARE INVITED</u>

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially for the birthdays of Holly Hillen, Dorothy Oloya, Richard Anderson, and Robin Woodberry.
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Emmett McGeorge that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

CONCLUDING COLLECT
Said by all

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN
The People sit, stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.
Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord

Church Announcements

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM*: "For This Joy"* by Susan LaBarr

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:, ♪ ♪ ♪

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

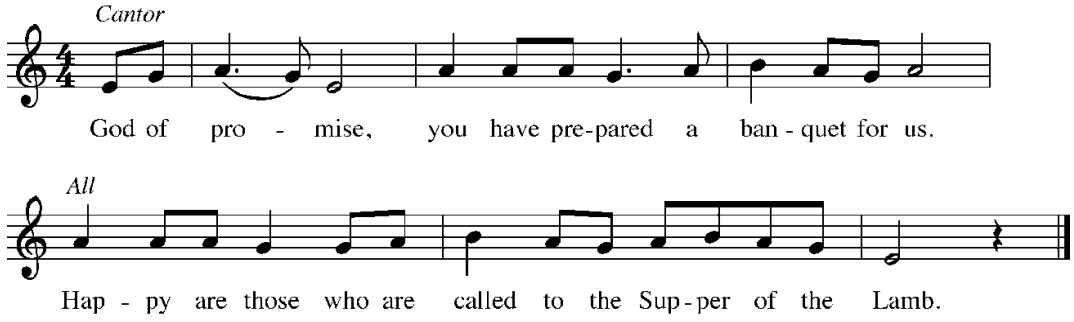
THE LORD'S PRAYER
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: "*God of Promise" (EOM1)*



Setting: Jonathan Dimmock, from **Missa Appalachia**, © 2002 Jonathan Dimmock.
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Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

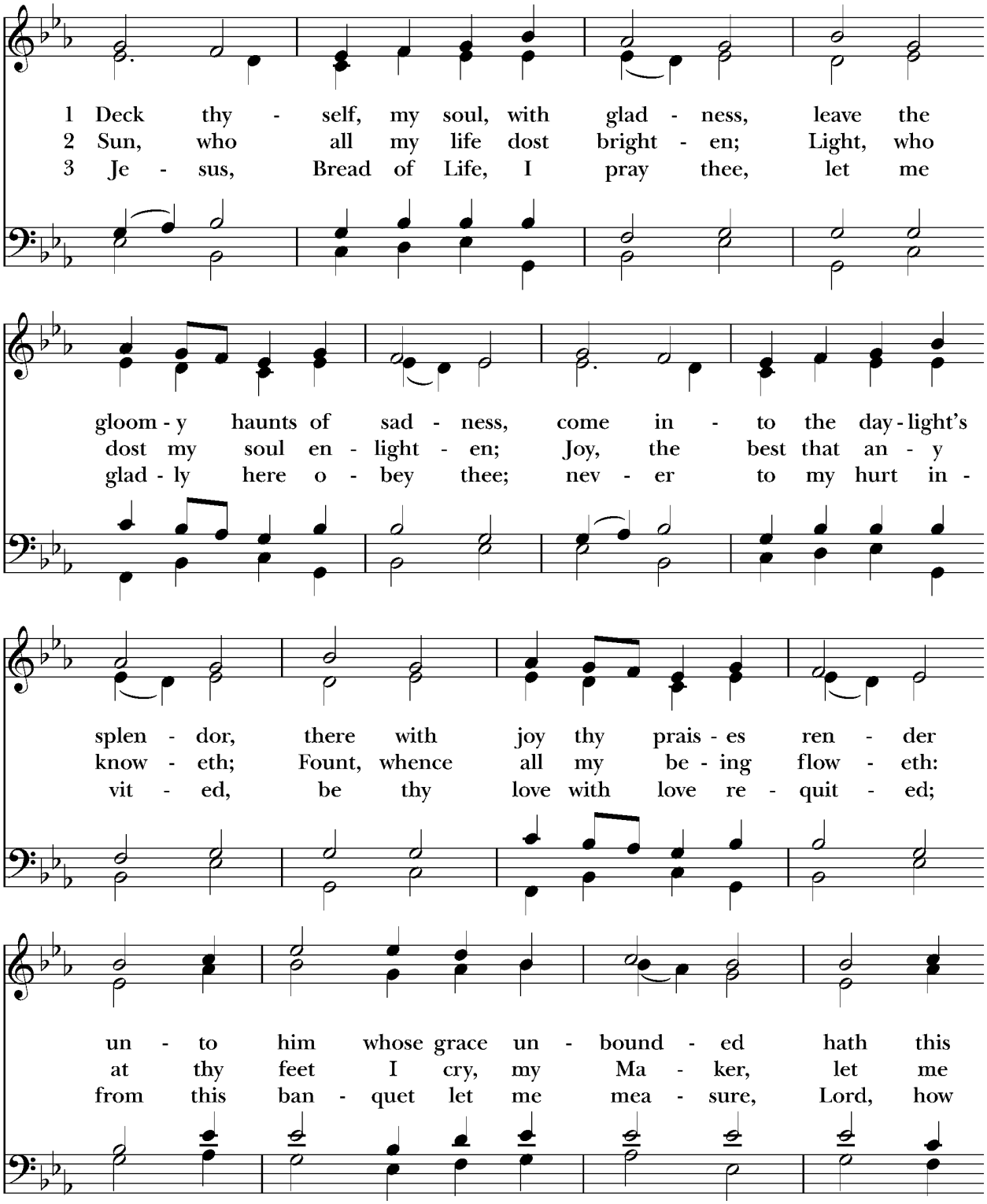
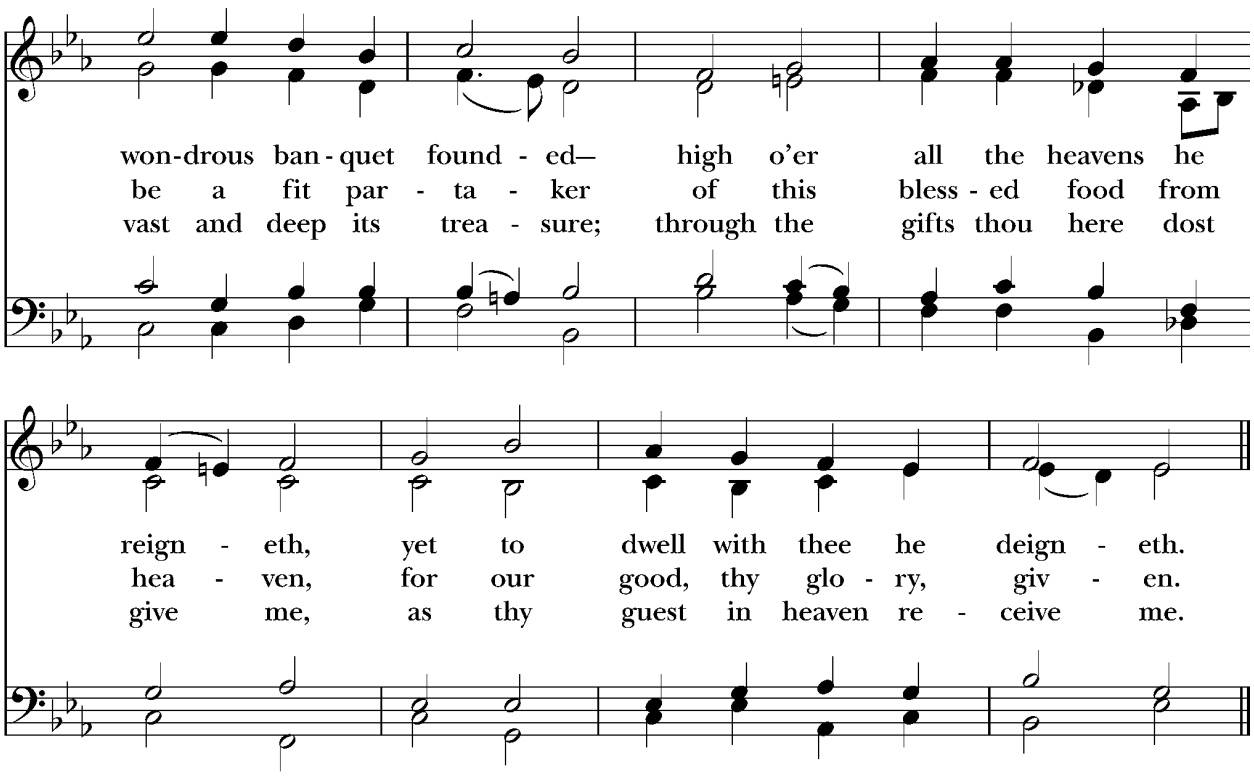
Let us pray together

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another, and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your
Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying

Beloved of God, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand—this same power is at work in each one of us who believe! So go from here in confidence and peace, knowing that God's presence and power go with you. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: ***"Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness" (Schmücke dich) (H 339)***

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in G Major* by J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGY:

Director of Music: Edward T. Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Lectors: Carol Sutek
Eucharistic Ministers: Douglas Colmery, Brenda Maurer
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Camera/Audio: David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Altar Guild: Susan Phillips, Karen Swope
Counters: Jeff Nowlin, Carol Sutek

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TODAY!!! Homecoming Lunch and Conversation: Join us after service in the Guild Hall for a light lunch to honor our homecoming guests and for a conversation with Rev. Robin to find out all the things St. Paul is doing!

Wednesday Study Group: Come and join us on Wednesday at 10:00a.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7p-8p. Please see the music director, Edward Grimes for more information.

Blessing of Animals: The blessing of animals will be held next week during the 10:30a service. The community blessing will be Oct. 6th beginning at 6 p.m. during First Friday downtown. A booth will be set up in the 400-block of Court Avenue NW next to the Arcadia Restaurant. You are welcome to bring your pets – or pictures of your pets – to be blessed.

The Annual Convention: The 207th Annual Diocesan Convention will be Nov. 10-11th, 2023, at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster, Ohio. If you would like to be a lay delegate, please let Rev. Robin or any member of the Vestry know. Delegates must be certified by Oct. 27th.

Upcoming Commemorations

Remigius of Rheims, Bishop, c. 530, or
Sunday, October 1, 2023

[John Raleigh Mott, Lay Leader and Ecumenist, 1955]
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

George Kennedy Allen Bell, Bishop of Chichester, and Ecumenist, 1958
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226
Wednesday, October 4, 2023

William Tyndale, Priest, 1536
Friday, October 6, 2023

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg: Lutheran Pastor in North America, 1787
Saturday, October 7, 2023

In the Diocese of Ohio, pray for the Cuyahoga Mission Area.

- St. John's Church, Cleveland
- St. Luke's Church, Cleveland
  The Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus, Curate
- Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
  The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens IV, Dean
  The Rev. Adrienne M. Koch, Priest Associate

Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown
Sharing the Feast

Sign Up Dates 2023

ONE REGISTRATION PER ADDRESS
NO PHONE OR ABSENTEE REGISTRATION

Saturday, October 14th
9:00am-1:00pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton 44702
-and-
J. Babe Stern Center
2628 13th St SW
Canton, 44710

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Tuesday October 17th
6:00pm-8:00pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton 44702

Wednesday, October 18th
10:00am-1:00pm
Habla espanol aqui
The Canton Fresh Market
3412 Harmont Ave NE
Canton, 44705

•

Wednesday, October 25th
8:00am-10:00am
Christ Presbyterian Church
530 Tuscarawas St. West
Canton 44702

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Thursday, October 26th
12:00pm-2:00pm & 3:00pm -5:00pm
StarkFresh
321 Cherry Ave NE
Canton 44702

BRING PHOTO ID & PROOF OF ADDRESS
Favor de llevar su ID y un bill con su dirección
STARK COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

Pick up Date

Saturday, November 18th from 10:00am-2:00pm
Canton Civic Center
1101 Market Ave N, Canton, OH 44702
ENTER FROM CLEVELAND AVE ONLY

October 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 1 10:30a Service HOMECOMING SUNDAY	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4 10 am Bible Study	Oct. 5 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	Oct. 6 6-7:30p Blessing of Animals @ Centennial Plaza	Oct. 7 Diocesan Youth Retreat @ St. Paul's
Oct. 8 9a D.O.K. 10:30a Service & Blessing of Animals	Oct. 9 6 pm Communications Mtg.	Oct. 10	Oct. 11 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Finance Mtg.	Oct. 12 6 pm Wedding Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	Oct. 13 5 pm Wedding	Oct. 14 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
Oct. 15 9a Adult Forum 10:30a Service 12 noon Worship Cmte Mtg.	Oct. 16 Robin Vacation →	Oct 17 6-8 pm Thanksgiving Baskets Registration 6:30 pm Courageous Conversations	Oct. 18 10 am Bible Study	Oct. 19 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	Oct. 20	Oct. 21 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
Oct. 22 10:30a Service Fr. Christopher Hofer Robin Vacation →	Oct. 23	Oct 24 7 pm Social Justice Book Group	Oct. 25 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Vestry Mtg.	Oct. 26 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	Oct. 27	Oct. 28 11 am HOT Lunch 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
Oct. 29 10:30a Service	Oct. 30	Oct. 31 HALLOWEEN!				

2024 Calendar and Budget Planning

It's time for all ministry leaders to work on their budgets and calendar dates for 2024. If you have not done so already, please submit your information to Peggy in the Church Office.

October Birthdays

1st- Holly Hillen, Dorothy Oloya
2nd- Richard Anderson
7th- Robin Woodberry
14th- Shirley Brown, Victor Sutek
18th- Donald Stauffer
19th- Rebecca Geissinger
Nicole Marcum
20th- Michael Lewton
Rebecca Patterson
22nd- Jeffrey Nowlin

Anniversaries

Linda & Mark Heitger: 10/24
Barbara & Richard Anderson: 10/27

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of the independence of Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period. https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/?

Prayer:

God of all peoples and nations, Dios de todo el mundo —
We praise you for your creativity made manifest in the gifts of tribes, ethnicities, and cultures across the world. Each one bears your mark of goodness and grace.

We especially praise you and thank you for your children with Hispanic heritage – the descendants of Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America. We find you in the beauty of their art, the joy of their song and their commitment to la comunidad.

We hear you in their call for a more just world – one of solidarity and liberation. We know you better because of the witness of their faith, may their faith and ours be bound together by your love in convivimiento — that spirit of unity, respect, and empathy for which there is no substitute.

Keep all those with Hispanic heritage in your care, hold them in your love and make us fierce advocates and allies for welcome, inclusion and the common good. Amen.
https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/prayer-for-hispanic-heritage-month

Dear friends in Christ,

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This October also sees a "Faith Week" of action culminating in a 24-hour prayer vigil at the Ohio Statehouse toward ending the death penalty in Ohio. And the Ohio Council of Churches is calling on partners to observe its third annual Anti-Racism Sunday on October 15th.

Each of these observances call us to interrupt and confront our culture and cycles of violence, just as the death of our Saviour on the Cross interrupted death and its powers and placed them under the authority of the resurrected life.

Lectionary and Liturgy

Track 2 lends itself particularly to addressing these issues:

- October 1st, the eve of Faith Week against the death penalty sees Ezekiel quoting the Lord God saying, "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone".

- The Epistle for October 15th also offers an opportunity to address the status and dignity of women in the church; although people of all genders are vulnerable to domestic violence, women and girls are at elevated risk.

- October 29th, Leviticus speaks to the need for impartial justice, the banishment of hatred from the heart, and a prohibition against vengeance.

Convert the hearts of this nation, O God. Subvert the forces of racism, hatred, violence, and evil. Help the broken, comfort the grief-stricken, stand close to those who are fearful, break open stony hearts, heal our hope. **Amen**

May the God of peace be with you,

Rosalind +

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Sermon Notes

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne B. Jolly

Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dr. Robin Woodberry

Staff
Edward T. Grimes, Director of Music

Peggy Neidig, Office Manager

Paul Schmucker, Sexton

Music Begins at 10:25 a.m. The services are also live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

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