



*"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."*

*Drawing by Bill Armstrong*

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 28, 2024**

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**WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

***Social Media Check-in:*** As you arrive, please check in on Facebook.  
Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @WestParkUCC.  
***Be sure to Subscribe, Like, and Share our social media posts!***

▲ *Please rise in body and spirit, as you are able.*  
**BOLD** text is spoken by the congregation.

## PRELUDE

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

by John Duro

## WELCOME

*(Please sign into the red attendance pads located in each pew.)*

## ▲ PASSING THE PEACE

*(You are invited to move about the sanctuary or stay in your own pew while offering the Peace of Jesus Christ with a handshake, a hug or a wave. Please remember to offer a greeting to our online congregation as well.)*

♪ *I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.* ♪ (2x)

## ▲ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God rules over the nations of the earth:

**Many: Peoples of the cities, families of the farmlands, all worship God  
Almighty!**

One: Jesus is the God of our ancestors and our descendants, of our past and our future.

**Many: In Jesus, we are connected to one another in a vine of holy covenant,  
a tapestry of love.**

One: May we share the fruit of Christ's love each and every day,

**Many: that we may proclaim a just world for all!**

One: Come, let us worship our God!

## ▲ HYMN OF PRAISE

*I Love to Tell the Story*

**BLACK 522**

## ▲ GATHERING PRAYER

**We recognize you, O Holy One, as the vine and the sower. You brought forth the life of creation and called it good. You planted in us the spark of divine love. You nurture and care for all that you created. Remind us in this hour of our inherent goodness, of our creation in your image, that we may share your gift of love with the world. AMEN.**

## ▲ GLORIA PATRI

*(Please sing the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)*

**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. Amen.**

**Glory be to the Parent  
and to the Child  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

*The Best of Gifts*

## GATHERING SONG

*Jesus Loves Me*

## FAITH FORMATION: For the Young and Young at Heart

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)*

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

**Holy God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

*Let It Breathe on Me*

**v.1, BLACK 288**

## SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

*(Please turn page)*

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

One: God is still speaking

**Many: and we are still listening. Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**▲ HYMN OF REFLECTION**

*Pass It On*

**NEXT PAGE**

Unison

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire  
2. What a won - drous time is spring, when all the trees are  
3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that

go - ing, and soon all those a - round can  
bud - ding; the birds be-gin to sing, the  
I've found; you can de-pend on him, it

warm up in its glow-ing. That's how it is with  
flow - ers start their bloom-ing. That's how it is with  
mat - ters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the

God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you spread God's love to  
God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you want to sing, it's  
moun-tain-top; I want my world to know; the God of love has

ev - ery-one; you want to pass it on.  
fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
come to me, I want to pass it on.

WORDS: Kurt Kaiser, 1969  
MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON  
Irr.

© 1969 Communiqué Music, Inc.

## **PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

One: As we come to our time of offering, we are invited to offer our gifts before God. If you did not have an opportunity to drop your gift in the plate as you entered the church, our Deacons will slowly pass by each row to provide you an opportunity to give.

## **OFFERTORY**

*Scottish American Month*

West Park Trio

One: God of all, you created us in your image, that we might be like you – like you in kindness, like you in humility, like you in love. In this moment of giving, let us be like you in generosity as well. We are invited to offer our gifts in person, by mail or online. This morning's offering will now be received.

## **▲ DOXOLOGY**

*(Please sing the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;      Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***  
***Praise Him all creatures here below;      Praise God all creatures here below;***  
***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;      Praise God above, ye heavenly host;***  
***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.      Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## **▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Dear God, Holy Love, you are love. May the offerings we share today be a source of hope for the poor and poor in spirit in our troubled world. Help us to live out your commandment to love others, not just because we reach out to them as our sisters and brothers and friends, but because they reach out to us as well. May our hands of love be filled with your abundance this day. AMEN.**

## **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **▲ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP**

*There Is a Name I Love to Hear*

**BLACK 52**

### **▲ BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

by Lani Smith

*Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from UCC Worship Ways.*

## THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

### SUNDAY, 04/28:

10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sunday School

11:30 a.m.

New Member Class, Parlor

11:30 a.m.

Community Meal

### MONDAY, 04/29:

7:00 p.m.

Mood Disorder Support Group

### TUESDAY, 04/30:

6:30 p.m.

Bike Cleveland, Parlor

7:30 p.m.

Recovery, International, Bartter Hall

### WEDNESDAY, 05/01:

6:00 p.m.

Bible Study, Parlor

7:00 p.m.

Choir

### THURSDAY, 05/02:

6:30 p.m.

Rooted and Rising, Parlor

### FRIDAY, 05/03:

Office Closed

7:30 p.m.

AI – Anon, Parlor

### SATURDAY, 05/04:

9-12

Work Party (Volunteer Morning)

3-6

LENAC, Bartter Hall

### SUNDAY, 05/05:

10:00 a.m.

Worship, Holy Communion, Sunday School

11:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour

**WE WELCOME** all who are worshipping our God this day into our hearts.

**COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY:** Our pantry is open every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 9am-11am**. If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please plan to visit us during these hours.

**ALL CHURCH RETREAT: The deadline is coming fast!** Registrations and payments are due Sunday, May 5. Our annual all church retreat will take place from May 24-26, 2024 at Temple Hills Retreat Center (5734 Durbin Rd, Bellville, OH 44813). For full details and to sign up, go to [WestParkUCC.org/grow](http://WestParkUCC.org/grow) and scroll to the bottom of the page. **ONLINE SIGN UP IS PREFERRED**; paper sign up sheets are in the narthex.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Our weekly bible study continues on Wednesdays at 6pm in the church parlor. This week's passage is 1 John 5. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**THE FLOWERS** are given by Holly Sinnema, in memory of her brother Phillip.

**WORK PARTY!** (formerly known as Volunteer Morning) This Saturday, come and help around the church- We will be doing some outdoor spring time clean up and putting screens in the sanctuary windows. It will be helpful to have some stronger helpers who can be on ladders, especially with the storm windows and screens! See you Saturday – Coffee and treats will be available.



**GOT A FAVORITE HYMN?** Scan this QR code and let Susan know what you would like to sing over the summer. Or, if this is not your style, we have a sign up in the narthex where you can list your favorite hymn.

**SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!** Director of Digital Ministries Jennifer White is requesting your church photos. If you have any recent photos of church life you would like to share, please email them to her at [westparkuccdigital@gmail.com](mailto:westparkuccdigital@gmail.com).

**NEW MEMBER CLASS!** Pastor Jason will hold a New Member Class after worship today in the Parlor. We will look at the history of this church as well as the UCC, and what it means to be an active church member.

**TIME CAPSULE:** We are planning to put together a time capsule to be opened on our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a church in 2059. We want to include videos of members, sharing things about West Park UCC now in 2024. Jennifer will be on hand to record members and their statements at the next coffee hour on May 5.

**APRIL PINK ENVELOPE SPECIAL OFFERING:** Each month, our church collects a special offering to support important and worthwhile ministries. This month's pink envelope offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an ecumenical offering supported by the United Church of Christ. The funds collected are used to support disaster relief and economic development to underserved communities around the world, proclaiming our shared faith in Jesus Christ to all the nations. You may donate in person, by mail or online. When donating online, please select PINK ENVELOPE from the drop-down menu of giving options.



## Online Giving QR Code



1. Open the camera on your smartphone.
2. Hold your device over the QR code so that it is visible on the screen.
3. Your smartphone will automatically scan the code.
4. Click on the link provided; you will be taken to the giving page of the church website.

## **NOTES**



**WE PRAY FOR:** All who are victimized by gun violence, all those affected by systemic racism in our country, for the safety and well-being of our law enforcement, all areas affected by war, Linda Ferro, Dede Todd, Wilda Donegan, Grace Burgess, LaShanda Harper, Dolly Chappell, Georgia Smith, Wanda Paulin, Midge Karnatz, Rodney Pauley, Ruth Finley, Audrey Glaser, Milly, Noreen, Donna, Diane, Roula, Alan, Judy, Henry,

Rich, Jodi & family, Vicki & Kevin, Gary & Jan, Jen & Jason, Pat & Gary, Neil & Christina, Marti, Charlie, Eric, Meli, Rosie, Ivonne, Dawn, Rosa, Maria, Sherry, Jean & Andy, Mandi C., Stanton, Robby, Callie, Michelle, Nellie Lou G, Diana B., Maureen, Ricki

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MINISTERS OF GOD'S LOVE.....	Every Member of WPUCC
SENIOR PASTOR.....	Rev. Jason Thompson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....	James R. Furry
MINISTER OF COMMUNION.....	Dan Moreland
MINISTER OF MUSIC.....	Susan Keserich
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MINISTRIES.....	Jennifer White
FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR.....	Sara Jovanovic
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR.....	Linda Ferro
LECTOR.....	Debbie Miller
COUNTERS.....	Mark & Pat Rust, Kathy Rennette

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3909 ROCKY RIVER DRIVE,  
 CLEVELAND, OH 44111  
 216-671-7228, [westparkuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:westparkuccoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.westparkucc.org](http://www.westparkucc.org)